薩摩義士傳

1

HIROSHI HIRATA

EXPLICIT CONTENT
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SATSUMA GISHIDEN

THE LEGEND OF THE SATSUMA SAMURAI

GRAPHIC NOVEL / MANGA

SATSUMA GISHIDEN

Controversial, tough, angry, highly skilled, and lost in a time of peace, the characters of *Satsuma Gishiden* tell a quasi-historical tale of social caste and brutal reprisal.

Readers with a taste for Kazuo Koike's gritty *Lone Wolf & Cub* will go nuts for master gekiga artist Hiroshi Hirata's tome of samurai struggle. Hirata's art and calligraphy leap off the page during scenes of action, only to unfold upon a full bleed that looks like a fine engraving. It's art at its most expressive, accentuating the classic stoic samurai characters you've come to know, only with a little more true society thrown in to help the reader understand what it was really like to be a warrior without a war.

Presented in the authentic left-to-right format to preserve the art, *Satsuma Gishiden* promises some of the best samurai manga ever.

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HIROSHI HIRATA

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THE LEGEND OF THE SATSUMA SAMURAI

HIROSHI HIRATA

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THE LEGEND OF THE SATSUMA SAMURAI

1

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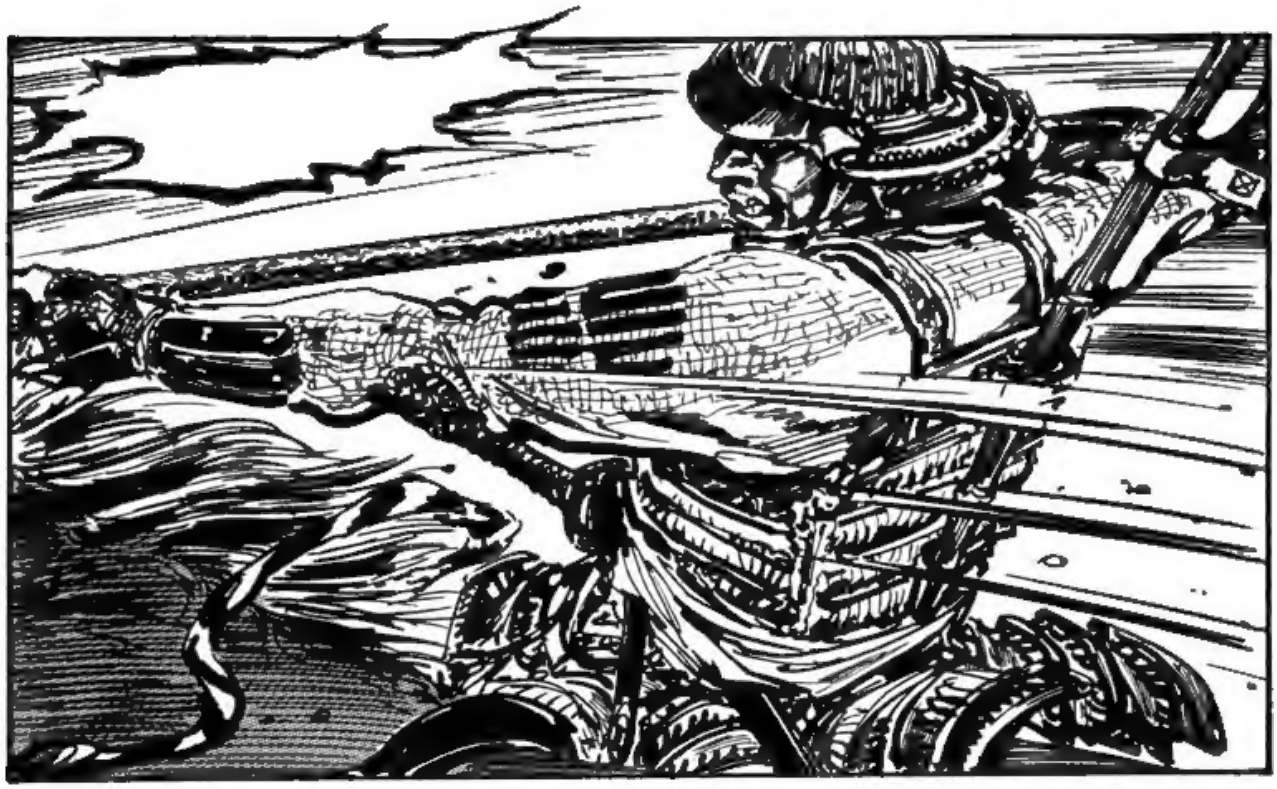
第一話
EPISODE 1

ひえもんとり
HIEMONTORI

薩摩には
ひえもんとり
と言う事あり
*THERE IS A SO-CALLED HIEMON-TORI IN SATSUMA

ONCE THE MEN ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS, A CONDEMNED CRIMINAL IS RELEASED ON A HORSE.
IT'S A GRUESOME CUSTOM DURING WHICH BOTH SIDES COMPETE TO SEIZE THE FELON'S LIVER, AS IF THEY ARE TRULY IN BATTLE.

CLIP
CLOP
CLIP
CLOP
CLIP
CLOP
DO
DO
DO
DO



NOTE: SOME BALLOONS WERE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK BY THE ARTIST.

DO
DO
DO
DO

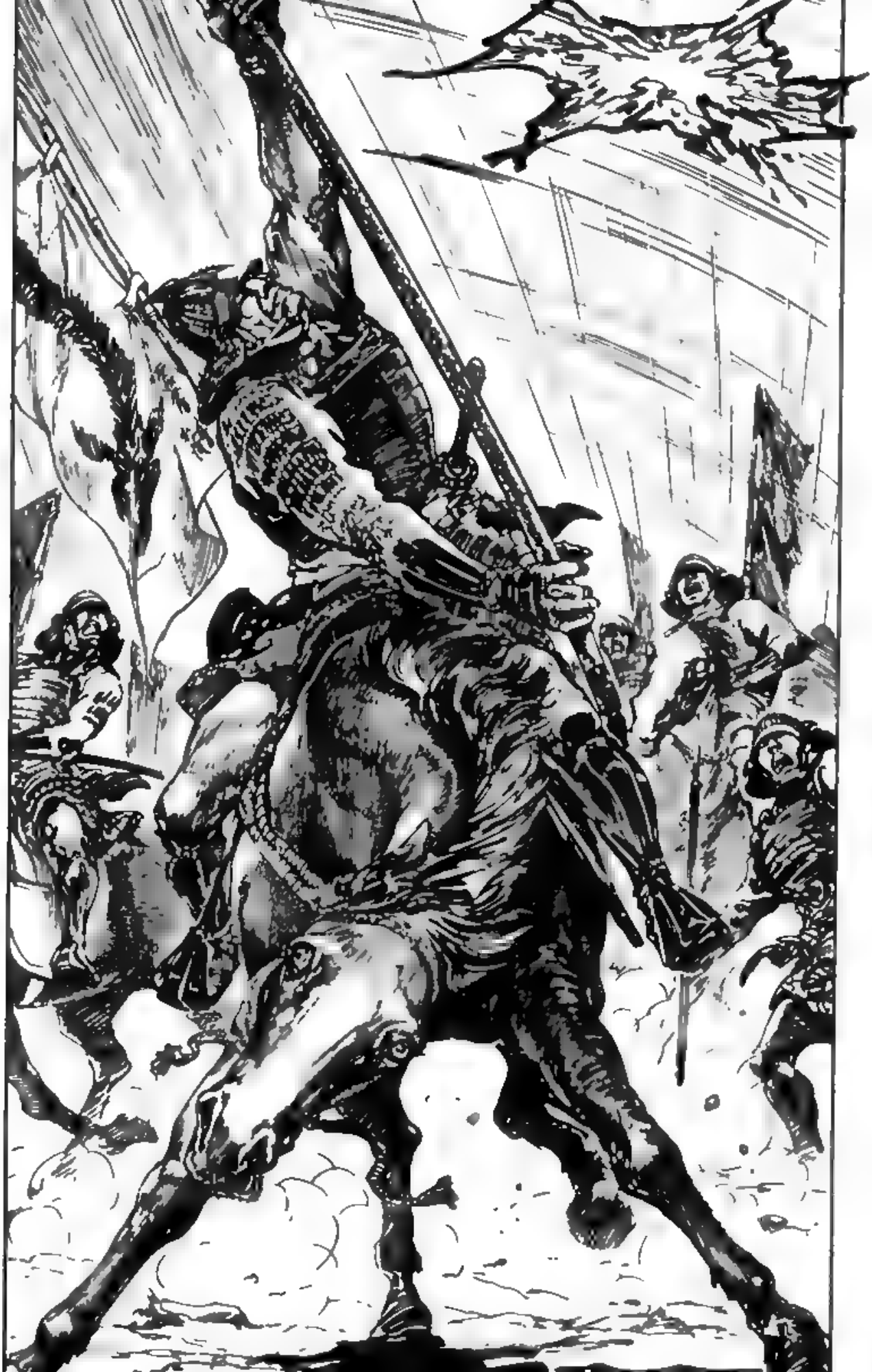
DOKA

DRN
DRN

DRN
DRN
DRN
DRN
DRN

DRN
DRN
DRN
YAHHH

DRN
DRN
DRN



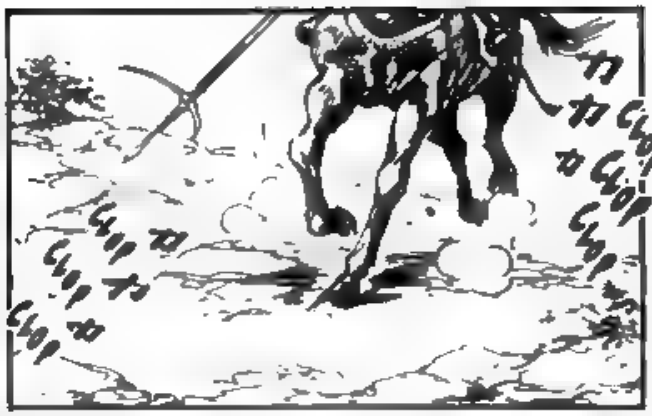
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
DRN
DRN
DRN

ヤ
ガ
ガ
ガ
ガ

ドドド

YAHHH!
I, SAGARA SHINNOSUKE, HAVE THE LIVER!

DAMN !!
SOME-HOW HE GOUGED IT OUT!
URK!
HIEMON-TORI... THE WORD IS FROM A DIALECT OF SATSUMA, AND MEANS "GRABBING SOME-THING BLOODY."


CLOP
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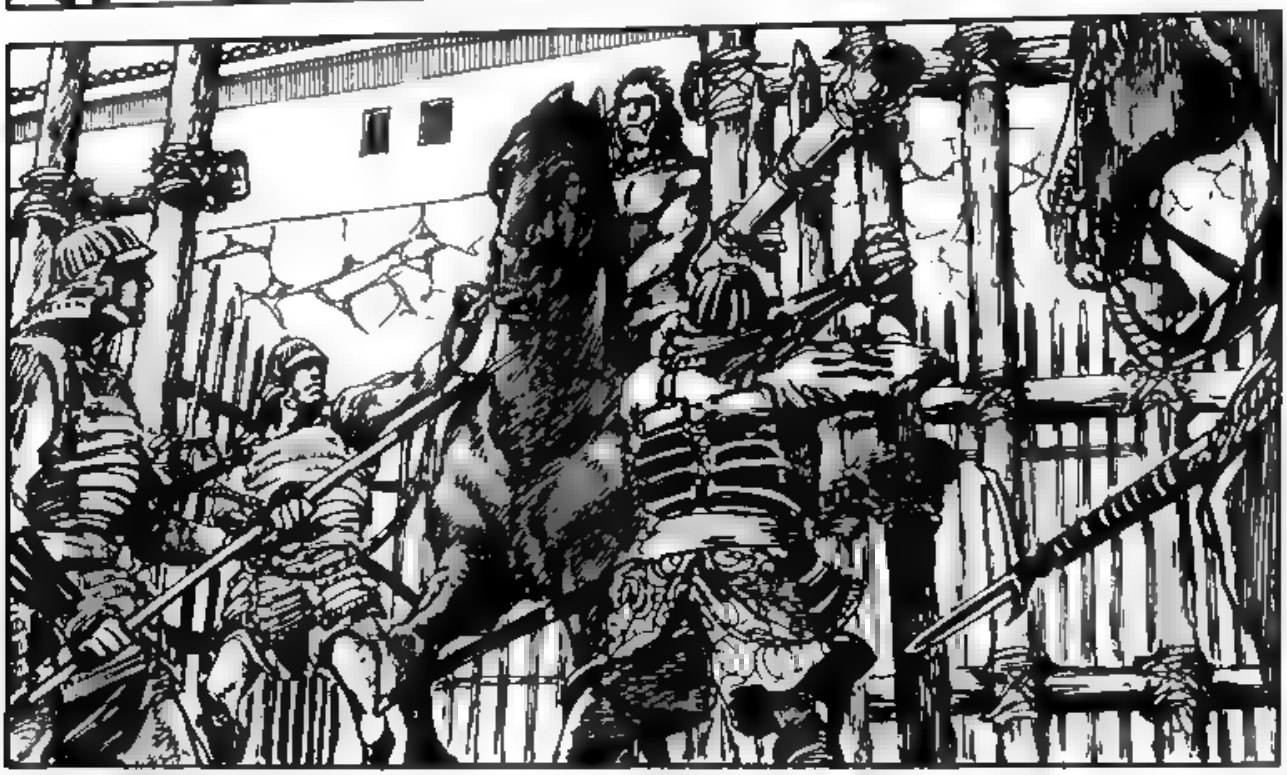
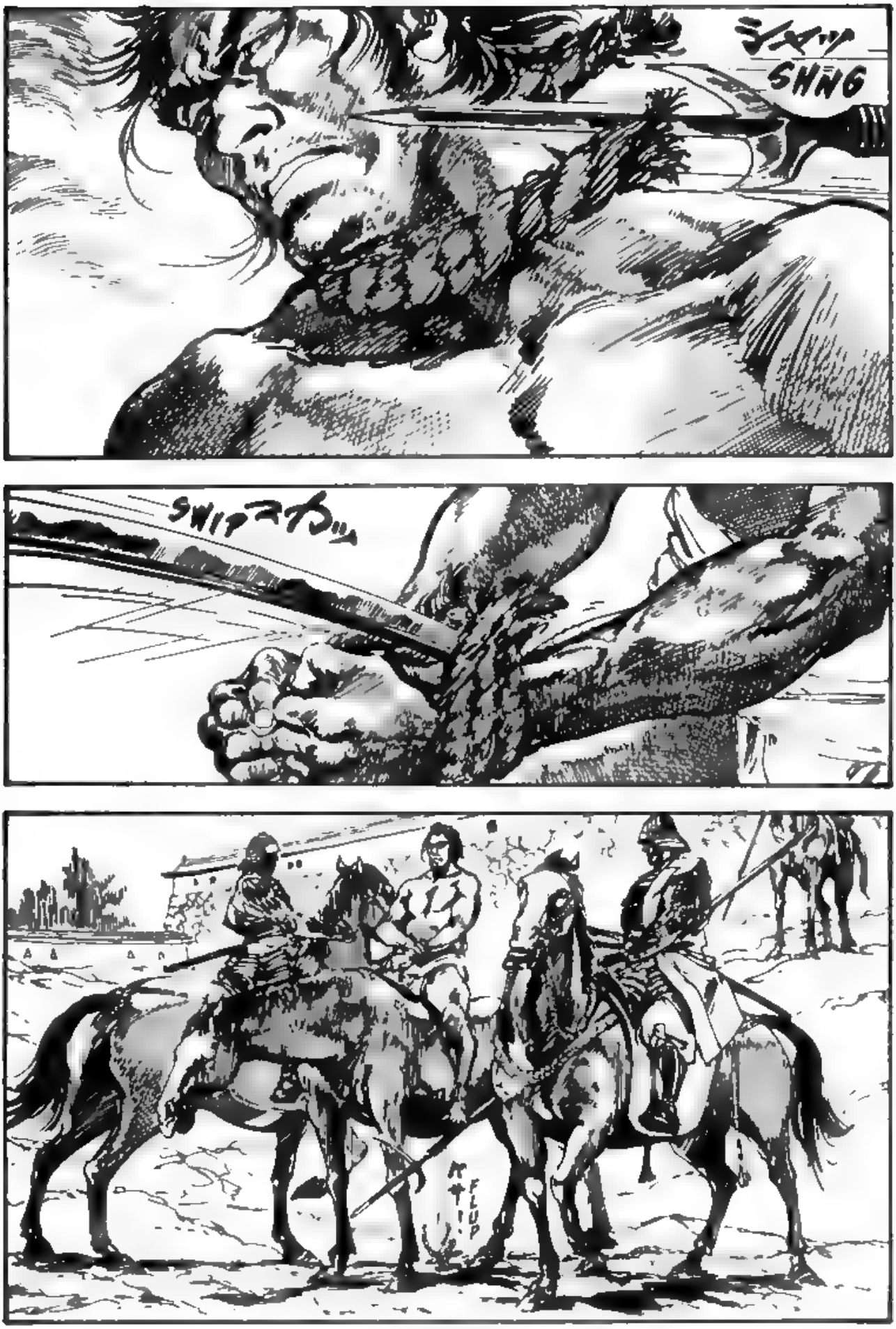
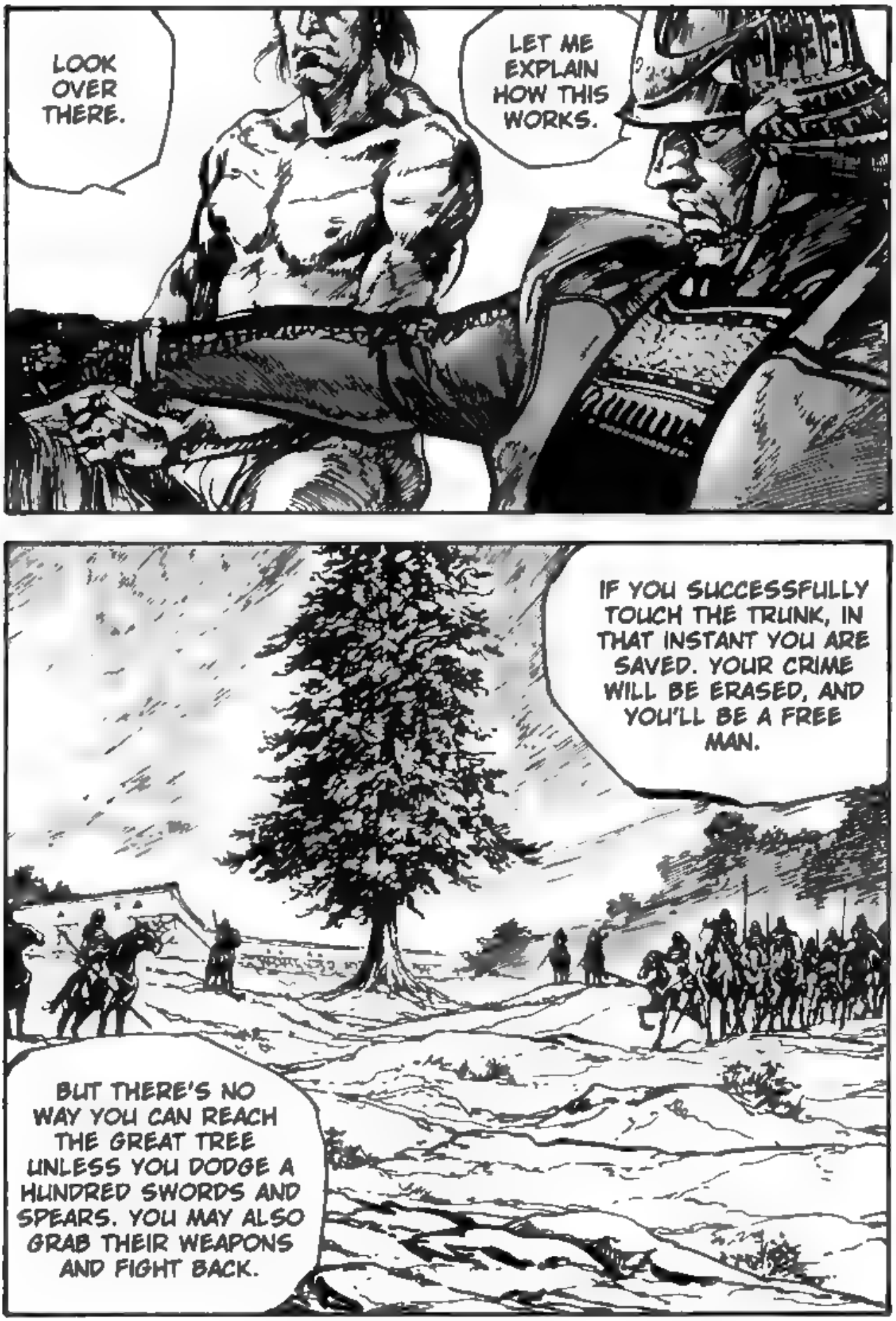
CLOP

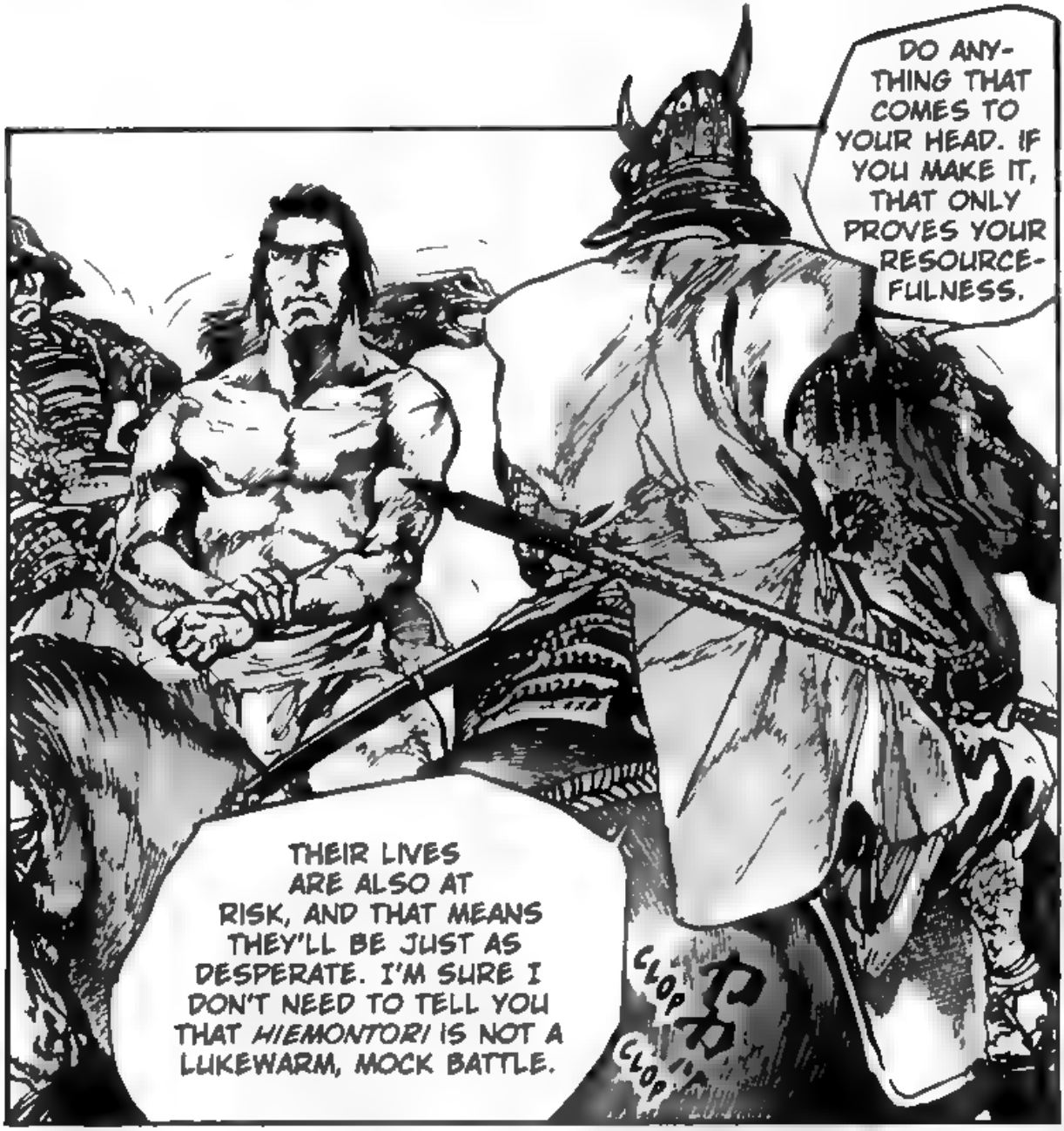
NOTE: IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE ARTIST'S CELEBRATED CALLIGRAPHY, SOME BALLOONS ARE CAPTIONED




SHNG
SWIPE
FLUP

EVERY-ONE'S EYES WERE FIXED ON THE FINAL CRIMI-NAL.
LOOKS LIKE HE'LL BE SOME TROUBLE COMPARED TO THE FIRST FOUR.
THE LAST IS SHIBA SAKON, EH?


LOOK OVER THERE.
LET ME EXPLAIN HOW THIS WORKS.
IF YOU SUCCESSFULLY TOUCH THE TRUNK, IN THAT INSTANT YOU ARE SAVED. YOUR CRIME WILL BE ERASED, AND YOU'LL BE A FREE MAN.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN REACH THE GREAT TREE UNLESS YOU DODGE A HUNDRED SWORDS AND SPEARS. YOU MAY ALSO GRAB THEIR WEAPONS AND FIGHT BACK.


DO ANY-THING THAT COMES TO YOUR HEAD. IF YOU MAKE IT, THAT ONLY PROVES YOUR RESOURCE-FULNESS.
THEIR LIVES ARE ALSO AT RISK, AND THAT MEANS THEY'LL BE JUST AS DESPERATE. I'M SURE I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU THAT *HIEMONTORI* IS NOT A LUKEWARM, MOCK BATTLE.
CLOP
CLOP

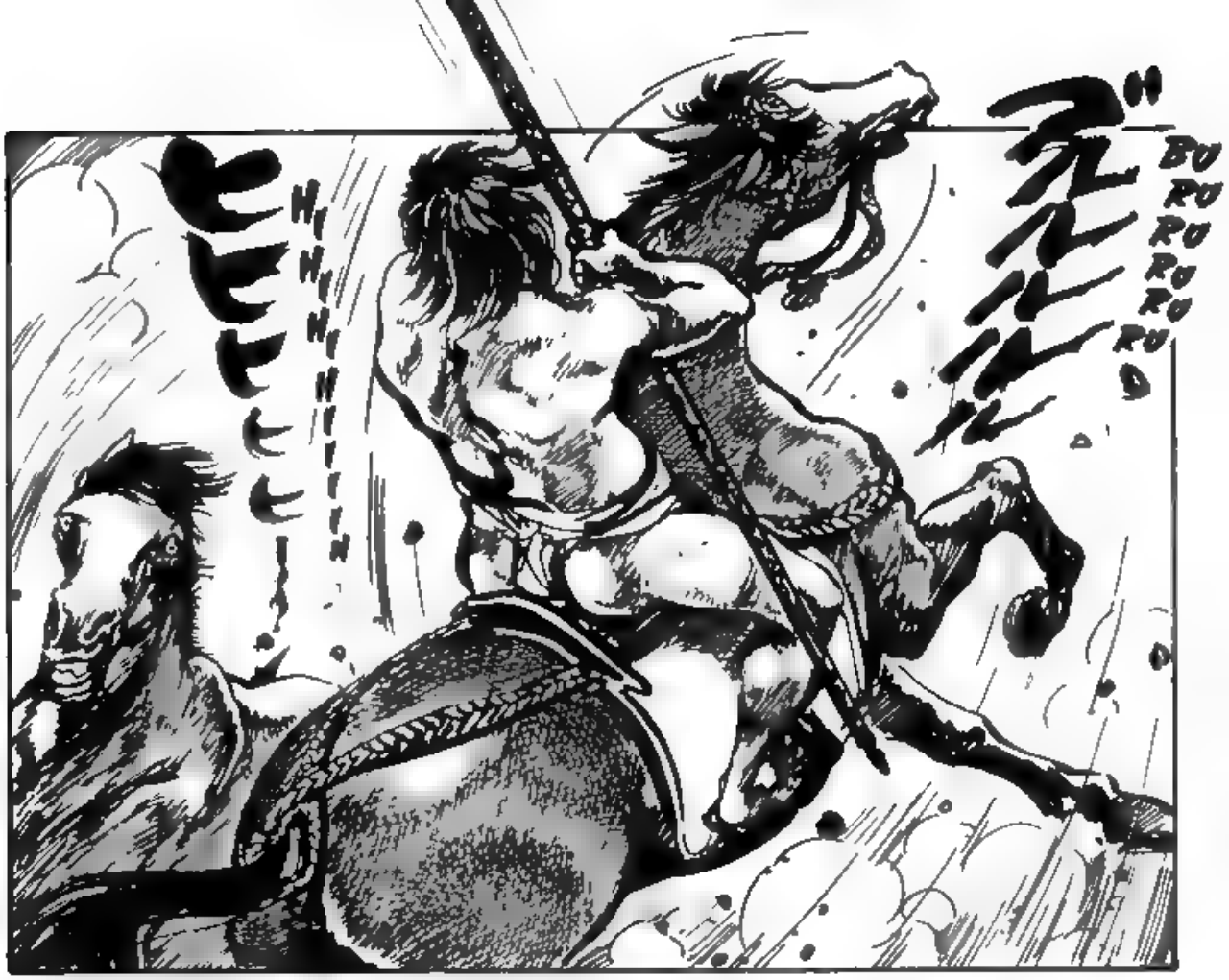
I ALREADY KNOW ALL OF THIS IN MY BONES. I DON'T NEED THE MARTIAL LAW OF SATSUMA REPEATED TO ME NOW.

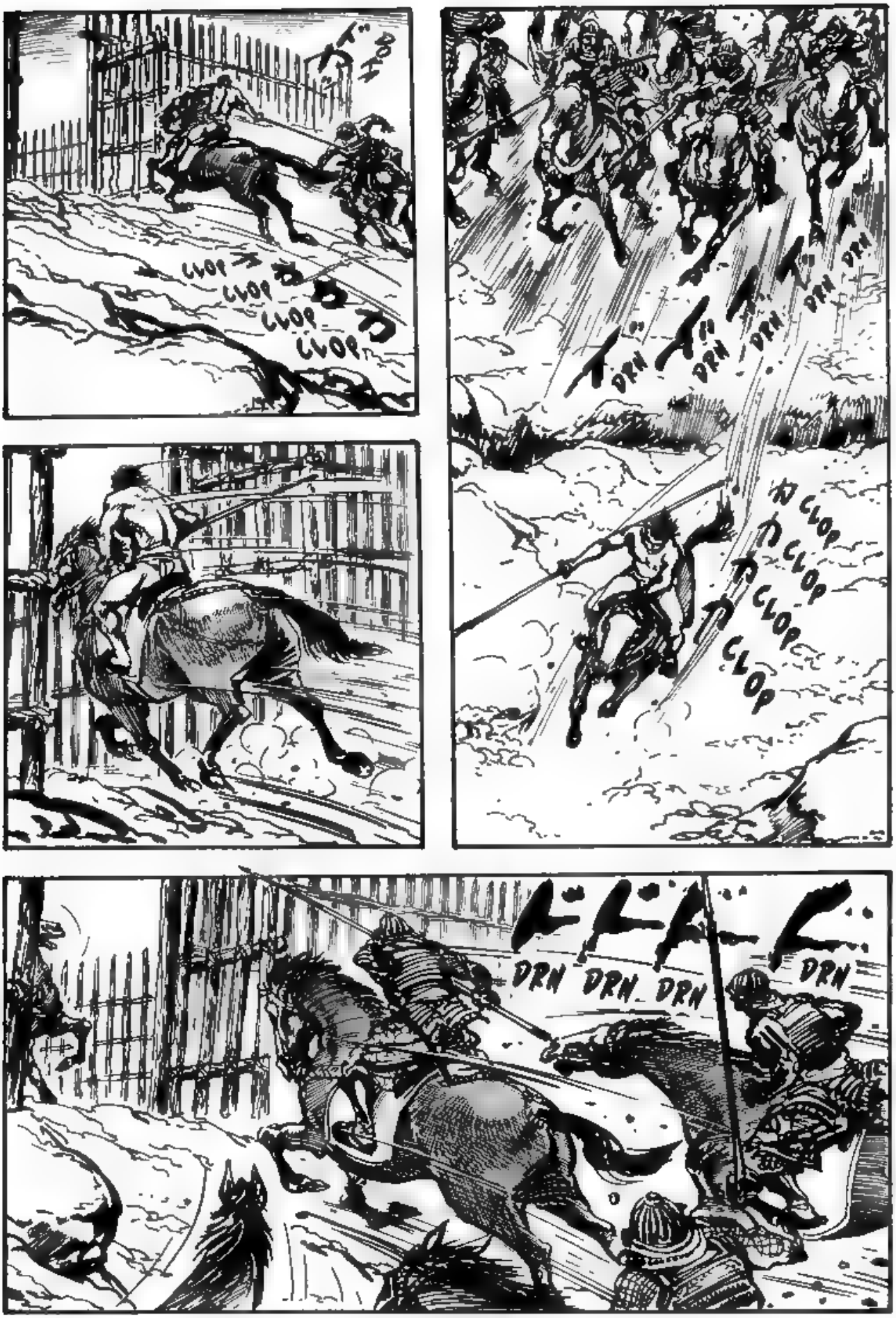
ANY MESSAGE YOU WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND?
ALL RIGHT. LET ME HEAR YOUR LAST WORDS THEN.
CLOP CLOP
YOU THINK I'LL DIE?
同心
*BE EXTRA ALERT. THIS FELON DOESN'T MEAN TO DIE.
*EVERY-ONE!
油断するな！ 奴は死ぬ気だぞ！

おお
YAAAH
WHAMM

KUMIGA-SHIRA-DON!!
GACHA
あ
"OH.
SHIK
YOU, YAM-EATING GŌSHI!!
"HAH!

YAAAAHH


BURURURURU
HHHHHHHH
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP


CLOP
CLOP
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DRN
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DRN
DRN
DRN
DRN
DRN
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

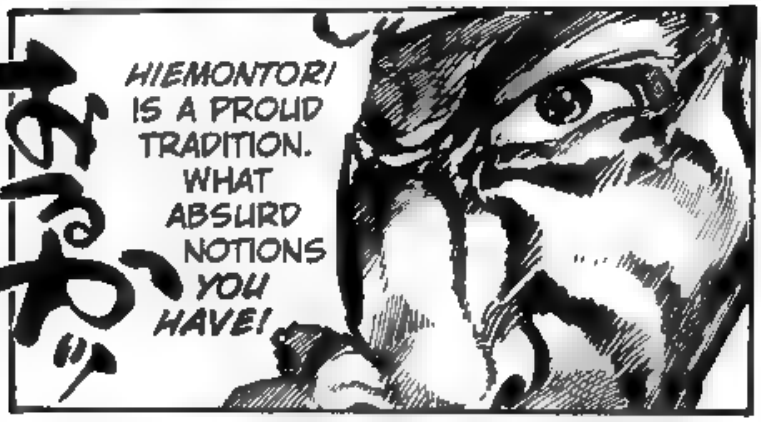
WHOO

IN THIS TIME OF PEACE...
...YOU'RE ALL CLAD IN ARMOR AS IF YOU'RE IN A REAL FIGHT! THIS BATTLE OF HIEMONTORI IS FUTILE, I TELL YOU!!
CALLING IT A MORALE BOOSTER IS AN EXCUSE. THE FACT IS, IT ONLY EXISTS AS A WAY FOR YOU TO VENT YOUR FRUSTRATION OVER BEING SO POOR.
*LISTEN!
*WHAAAT ?!

NOTE IN CASES WHEN ARTISTIC AND PLAIN TEXT WERE USED IN ORIGINAL BALLOONS, CALLIGRAPHY TEXT IS TRANSLATED IN BOLD

HMPH

FOUL, UNFORGIVABLE WORDS!

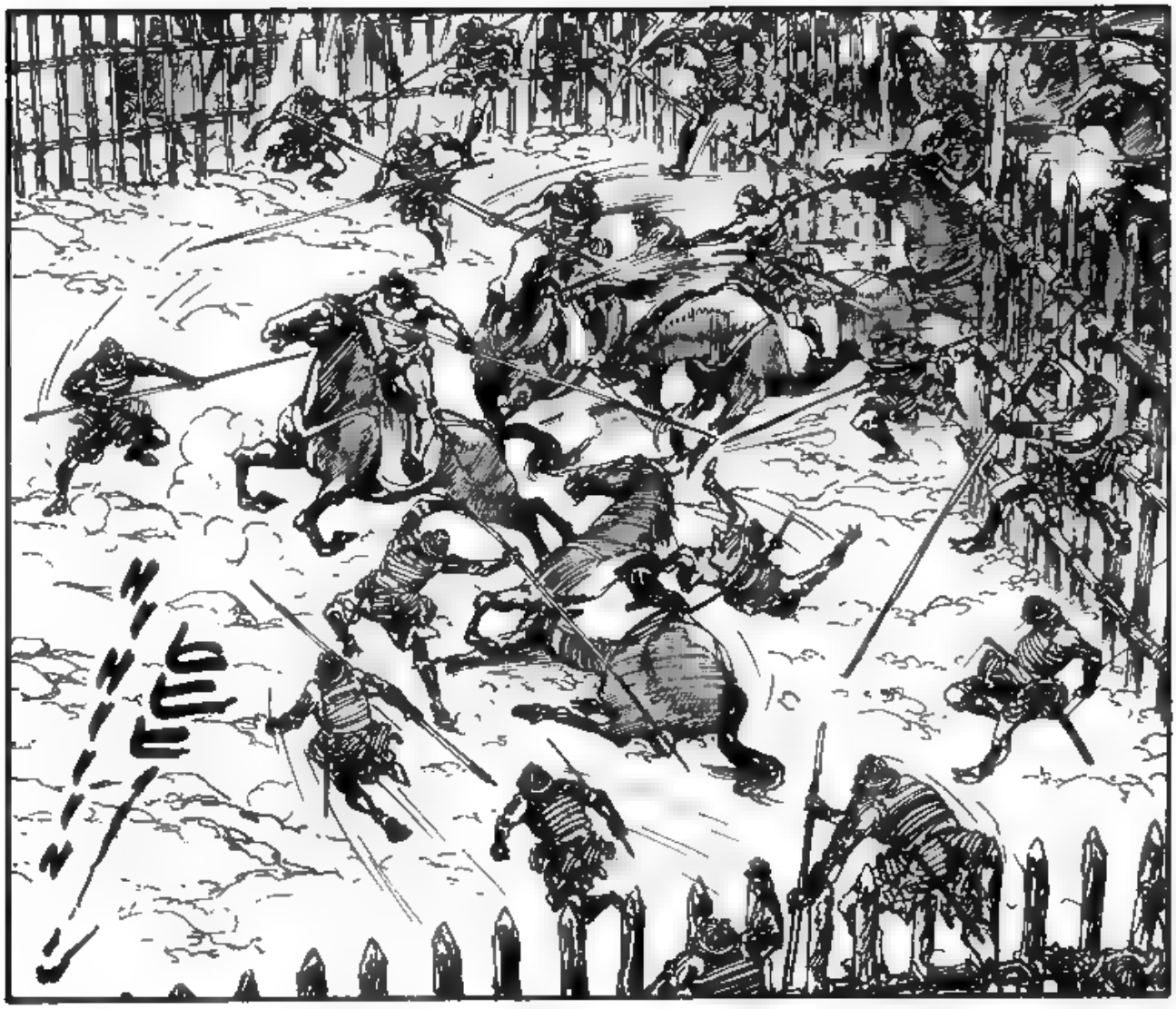

HIEMONTORI IS A PROUD TRADITION. WHAT ABSURD NOTIONS YOU HAVE!

IT'S BEEN PRACTICED SINCE BEFORE THE TIME OF KOJIKI, AND IT HAS...
...FORGED THE SPIRIT OF SATSUMA HAYATO!

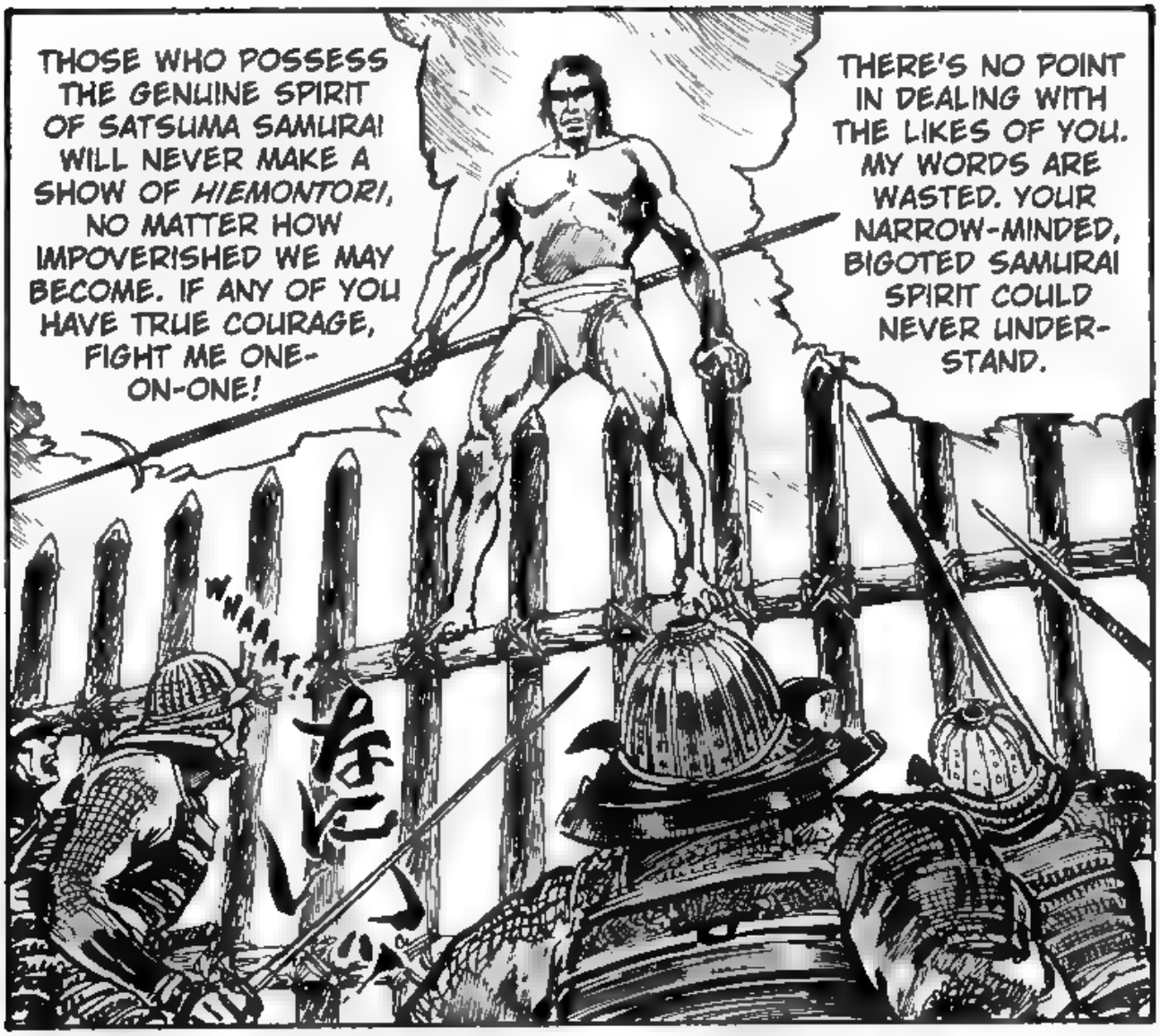
THIS SHOULD BE THE LAST TIME YOU BOTHER WITH SUCH A FRUITLESS ACTIVITY AS HIEMONTORI!

THOSE WHO LIVE IN SATSUMA MUST KNOW THE REALITY OF OUR IMPOVERISHED STATE!
DON'T PAINT THE TRUTH WITH PRETTY LIES! POVERTY HAS DRIVEN EVEN THE FAMILIES OF JŌKASHI LIKE YOU TO HUDDLE AND SLEEP TOGETHER, SHARING A SINGLE, HARDENED FUTON, WITH A COVER BARELY BIG ENOUGH TO WARM YOUR LEGS!
*SHUT UP!
HIEMONTOR! IS JUST A REACTION TO UNBEARABLE DESTITUTION. FACE IT! THAT'S THE REALITY!

*YOU YAM SAMURAI!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PIECE OF RICE PAPER! THAT'S JUST ABOUT ALL THAT A WORTHLESS YAM-EATING GOSHI CAN COMPREHEND!
HMPH
HA HA HA HA
YOU ALSO LIVE OFF OF YAM, DON'T YOU?
BASTARD!!

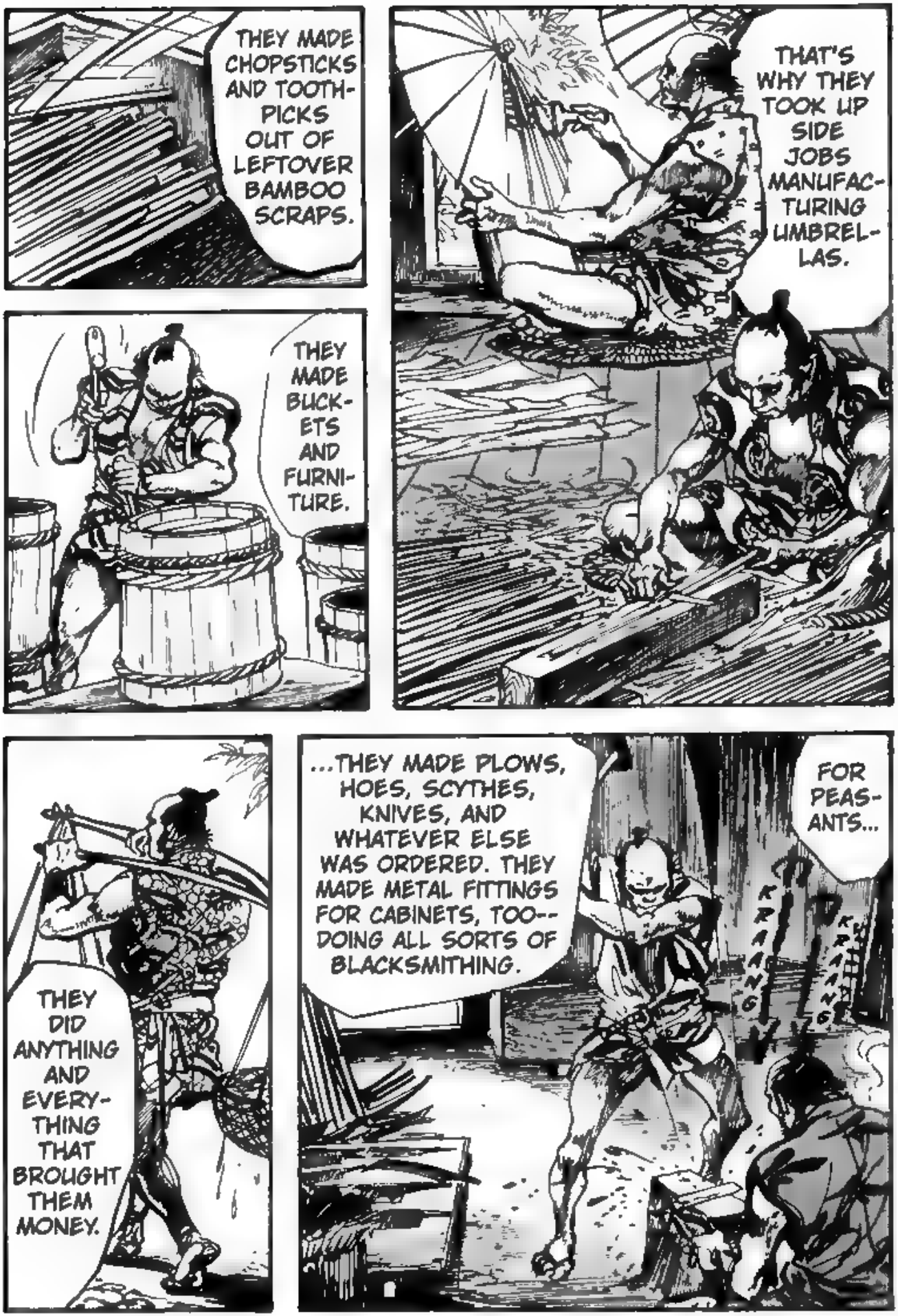


KUNK


THOSE WHO POSSESS THE GENUINE SPIRIT OF SATSUMA SAMURAI WILL NEVER MAKE A SHOW OF *HIEMONTORI*, NO MATTER HOW IMPOVERISHED WE MAY BECOME. IF ANY OF YOU HAVE TRUE COURAGE, FIGHT ME ONE-ON-ONE!
THERE'S NO POINT IN DEALING WITH THE LIKES OF YOU. MY WORDS ARE WASTED. YOUR NARROW-MINDED, BIGOTED SAMURAI SPIRIT COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND.
WHAAAT!

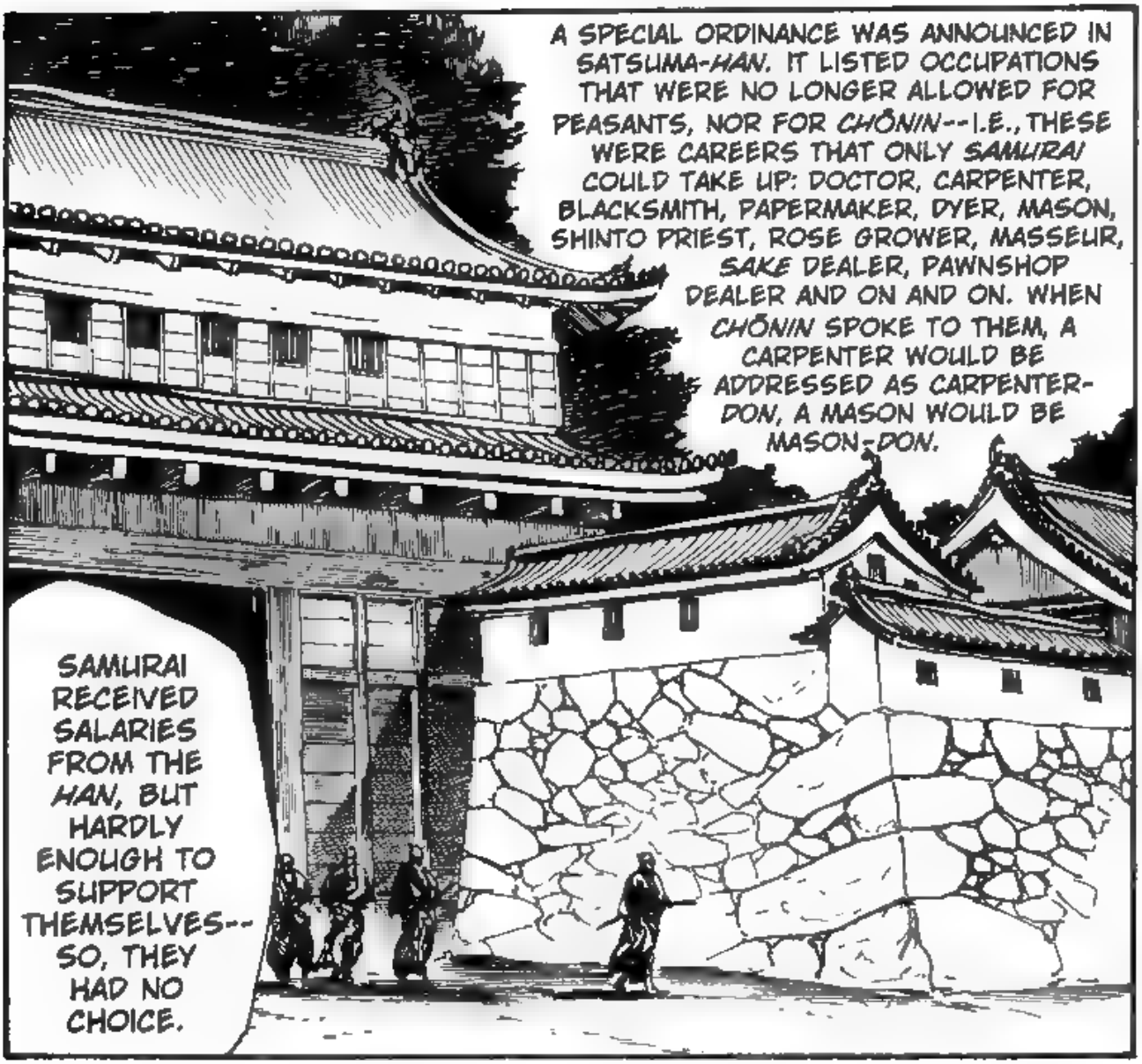
SO WHAT IF WE'RE SAMURAI?! WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT OUR DIGNITY? SAMURAI OR NOT, WITHOUT FOOD WE WON'T BE AROUND FOR LONG.
REEE!
REEEE!
REEE!

INDEED, MANY SAMURAI OF SATSUMA LIVED IN DESTITUTION. IF THEY WERE NOT IN WANT OF FOOD AND CLOTHES, THEY WOULD HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO DECORUM. HOWEVER, THEY WERE TOO IMPOVERISHED TO CARE ABOUT THEIR HONOR AS SAMURAI. IT WAS THE REALITY THAT LAY AT THE BOTTOM OF THEIR SECRET HEARTS.


THEY MADE CHOPSTICKS AND TOOTH-PICKS OUT OF LEFTOVER BAMBOO SCRAPS.
THAT'S WHY THEY TOOK UP SIDE JOBS MANUFAC-TURING UMBREL-LAS.
THEY MADE BUCK-ETS AND FURNI-TURE.
THEY DID ANYTHING AND EVERY-THING THAT BROUGHT THEM MONEY.
...THEY MADE PLOWS, HOES, SCYTHES, KNIVES, AND WHATEVER ELSE WAS ORDERED. THEY MADE METAL FITTINGS FOR CABINETS, TOO--DOING ALL SORTS OF BLACKSMITHING.
FOR PEAS-ANTS...
KRAANG
KRAANG

AND YET, SIDE JOBS WERE SIDE JOBS. NONE OF IT BROUGHT IN ENOUGH TO FEED THEIR FAMILIES.
WAHHH
WAHHH
I'M HUNGRY.
"BE QUIET!
...IN EXCHANGE FOR SCRAPS OF YAMS, TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR THE LACK OF FOOD.
THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GO AND WORK FOR THE PEASANTS...
IT'S REALLY YUMMY, PA! ASK FOR MORE!
WE AREN'T BEGGARS!

PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, I BESEECH YOU!
WE CAN'T LIVE OFF OF MAKE-WORK!
I UNDER-STAND.


A SPECIAL ORDINANCE WAS ANNOUNCED IN SATSUMA-*HAN*. IT LISTED OCCUPATIONS THAT WERE NO LONGER ALLOWED FOR PEASANTS, NOR FOR *CHŌNIN*--I.E., THESE WERE CAREERS THAT ONLY *SAMURAI* COULD TAKE UP: DOCTOR, CARPENTER, BLACKSMITH, PAPERMAKER, DYER, MASON, SHINTO PRIEST, ROSE GROWER, MASSEUR, *SAKE* DEALER, PAWNSHOP DEALER AND ON AND ON. WHEN *CHŌNIN* SPOKE TO THEM, A CARPENTER WOULD BE ADDRESSED AS CARPENTER-*DON*, A MASON WOULD BE MASON-*DON*.
SAMURAI RECEIVED SALARIES FROM THE *HAN*, BUT HARDLY ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES--SO, THEY HAD NO CHOICE.

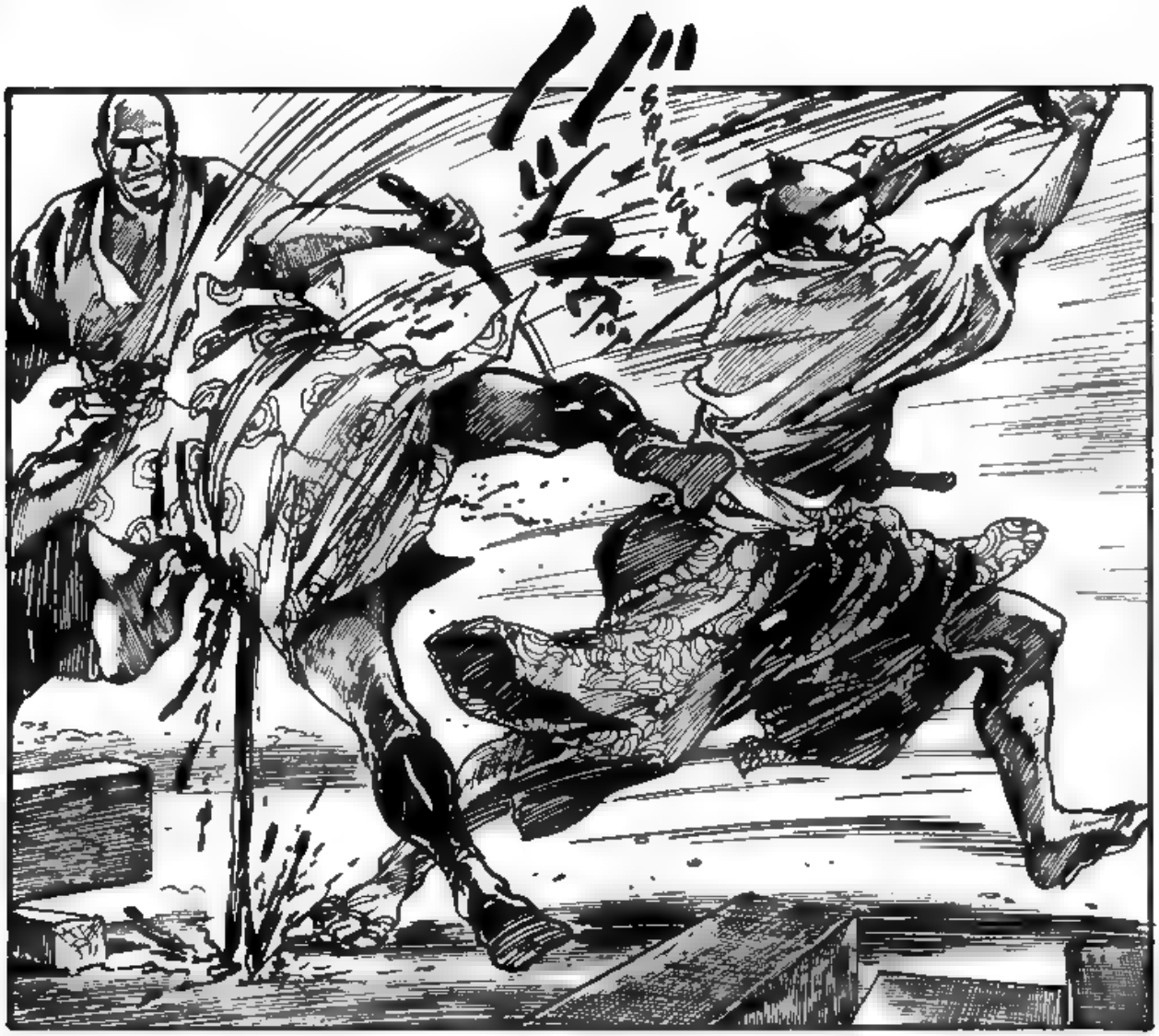
...THEIR LIVES DID NOT GET... ANY EASIER...
THUS...
AS FOR BIG JOBS COVERED UNDER THE SPECIAL ORDINANCE--FOR ANY ENTERPRISE THAT INVOLVED LARGE SUMS OF MONEY--THE *HAN* INTERVENED AND TOOK AWAY THE BULK OF THE PROFIT.
...AND IT FOSTERED THEIR DISSATISFACTION.
WHAT IS *SAMURAI*? WHAT IS *GŌSHI*?
SURE! NO PROBLEM! CARRY THE TOOL BOX AND LEAD THE WAY! AS LONG AS YOU OFFER US FOOD AND DRINK AT TEN AND THREE EVERY DAY, WE'LL BUILD YOU A HOUSE ALL RIGHT.
ER... *DANNA-SAA*, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FAVOR.
SO... FOR INSTANCE, WEALTHY MERCHANTS AND *CHŌNIN* ALIKE WOULD HAVE TO VISIT A SAMURAI CARPENTER AND GROVEL IF THEY WANTED TO BUILD A NEW HOUSE.
THEY COULDN'T HELP THROWING THEIR WEIGHT AROUND TO VENT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS, EVEN WHEN IT WASN'T NECESSARY AT ALL.

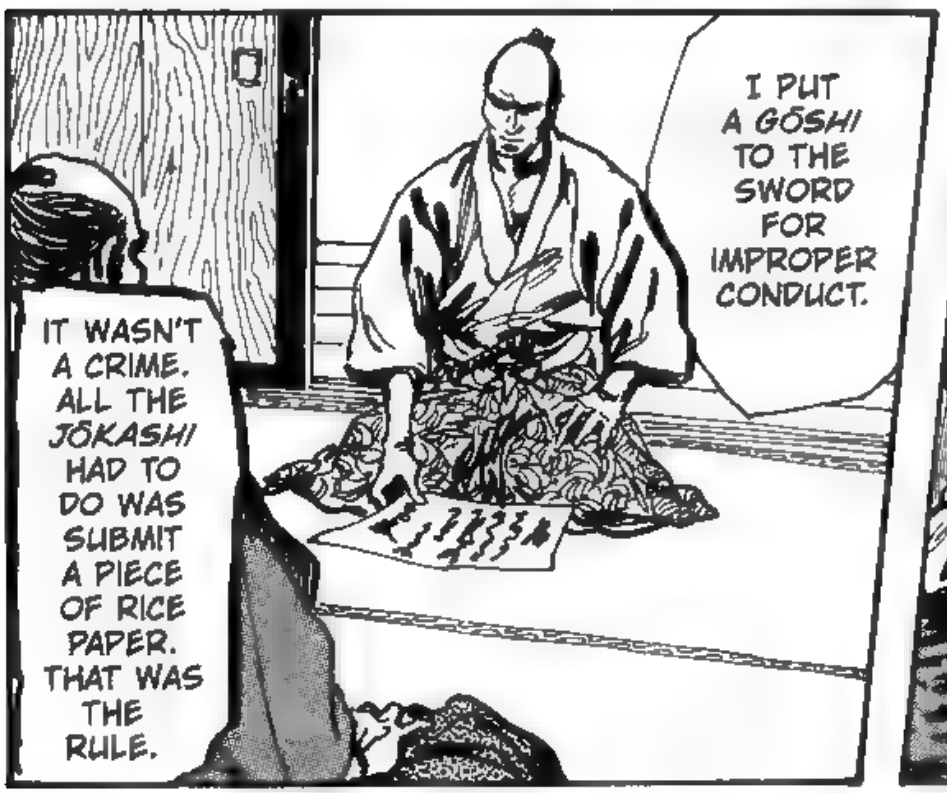
THIS IS THE BEST *SAKE* FROM NADA. PLEASE ENJOY.
SATSUMA SAMURAI WERE SO POWERFUL IN STATUS, EVEN THE MOST RESPECTABLE *CHŌNIN* HAD TO TREAT THE WRETCHED *SANPIN* SAMURAI WITH GREAT CARE.
OH, SURE! WE'LL DRINK IT!!

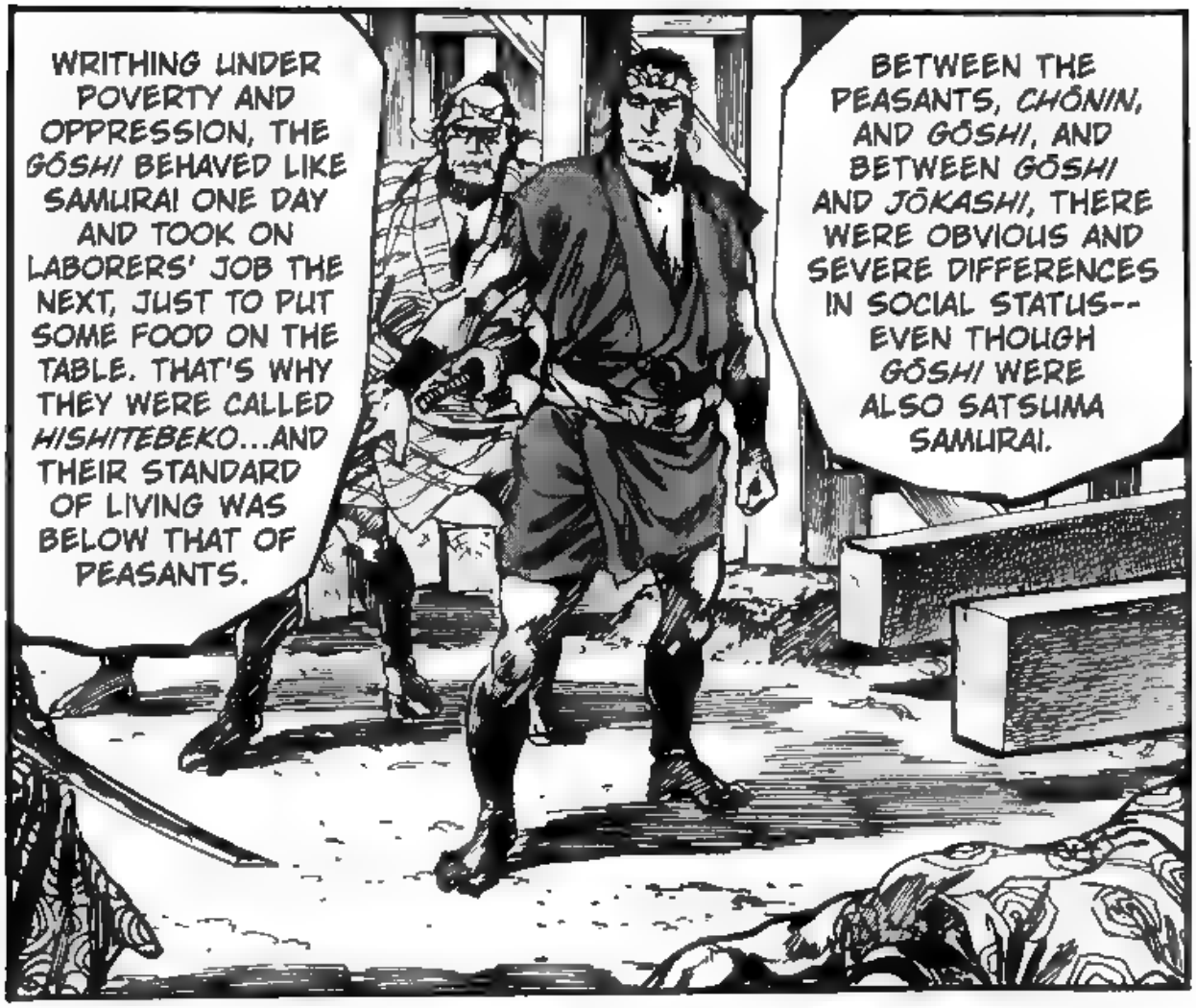
HIS HOUSE WOULDN'T BE BUILT, AND HE MIGHT EVEN END UP KILLED--BUT THE *CHŌNIN* COULD NOT COMPLAIN.
A WEALTHY MERCHANT MIGHT BE THEIR BENE-FACTOR, BUT IF HE DIDN'T BEHAVE RIGHT, THEY'D UNSHEATHE THEIR *KATANA* AND START SLASHING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.

YOU AND YOUR WHOLE FAMILY GOBBLE DOWN YAM SOUP AT HOME, I KNOW! YOU'RE NO MORE THAN A *SANPIN* BASTARD!
IT'S NO WON-DER THE *CHŌNIN* SO DEEPLY HATED AND DESPISED THESE *SAMURAI*, ALTHOUGH THEY COULDN'T SHOW IT.

TWO JŌKASHI CAME BY RIGHT THEN.
YO! YAM! EXCITED, EH?
YOUR EYES SPOKE LOUD!!
なにぃっ!
*WHAAAT?!
なんだその眼はっ!
*WHAT'S THAT LOOK?!


SHUUU


I PUT A GŌSHI TO THE SWORD FOR IMPROPER CONDUCT.
IT WASN'T A CRIME. ALL THE JŌKASHI HAD TO DO WAS SUBMIT A PIECE OF RICE PAPER. THAT WAS THE RULE.


WRITHING UNDER POVERTY AND OPPRESSION, THE GŌSHI BEHAVED LIKE SAMURAI ONE DAY AND TOOK ON LABORERS' JOB THE NEXT, JUST TO PUT SOME FOOD ON THE TABLE. THAT'S WHY THEY WERE CALLED HISHITEBEKO...AND THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING WAS BELOW THAT OF PEASANTS.
BETWEEN THE PEASANTS, CHŌNIN, AND GŌSHI, AND BETWEEN GŌSHI AND JŌKASHI, THERE WERE OBVIOUS AND SEVERE DIFFERENCES IN SOCIAL STATUS--EVEN THOUGH GŌSHI WERE ALSO SATSUMA SAMURAI.

EPISODE 1 / THE END

魔奪戦士伝

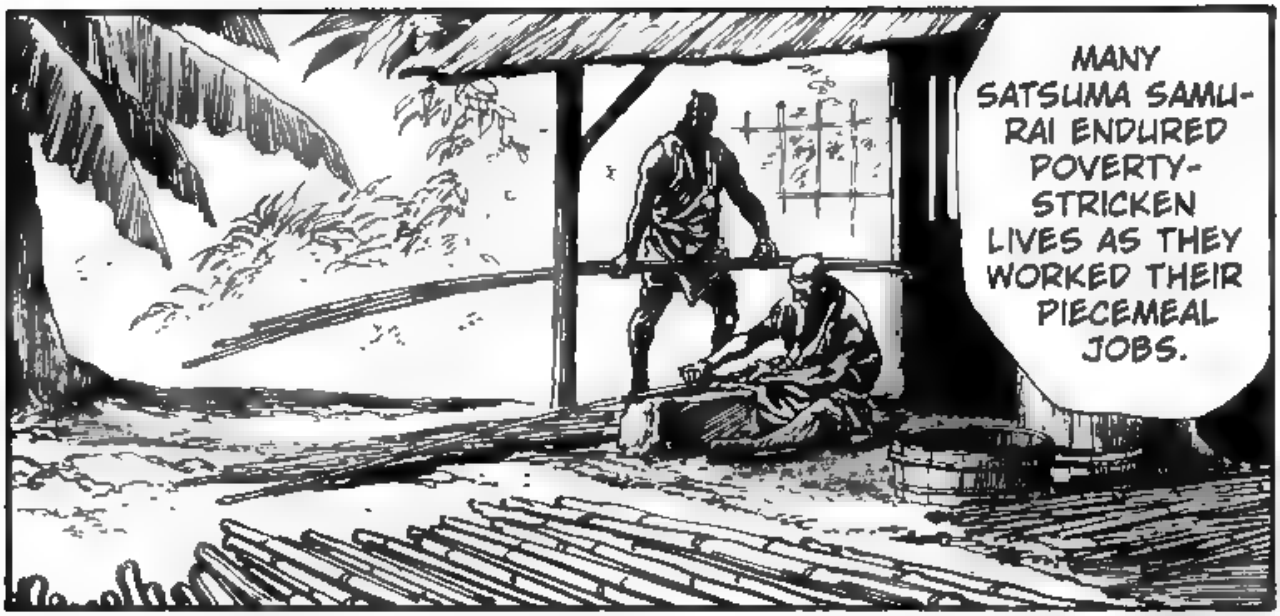
100 MANGA

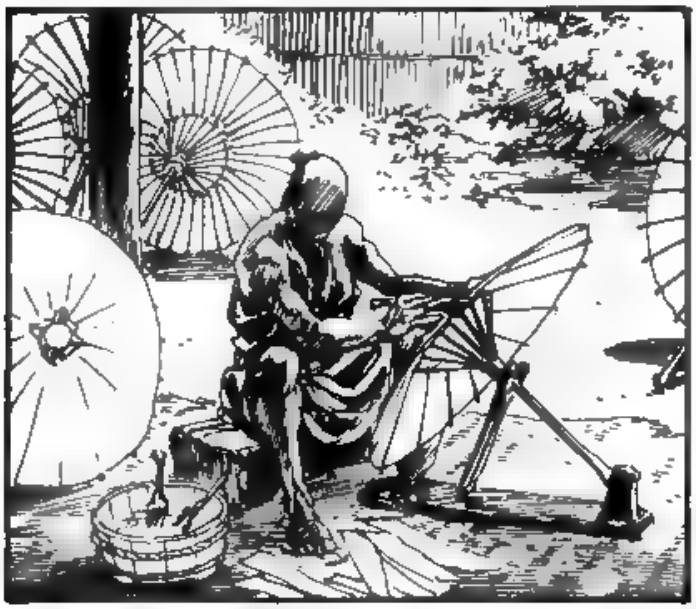
第二話 (にのわ)

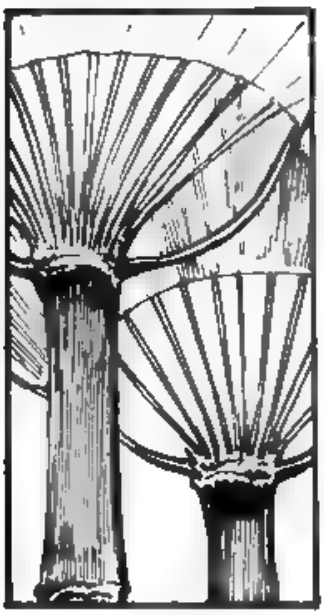
EPISODE 2

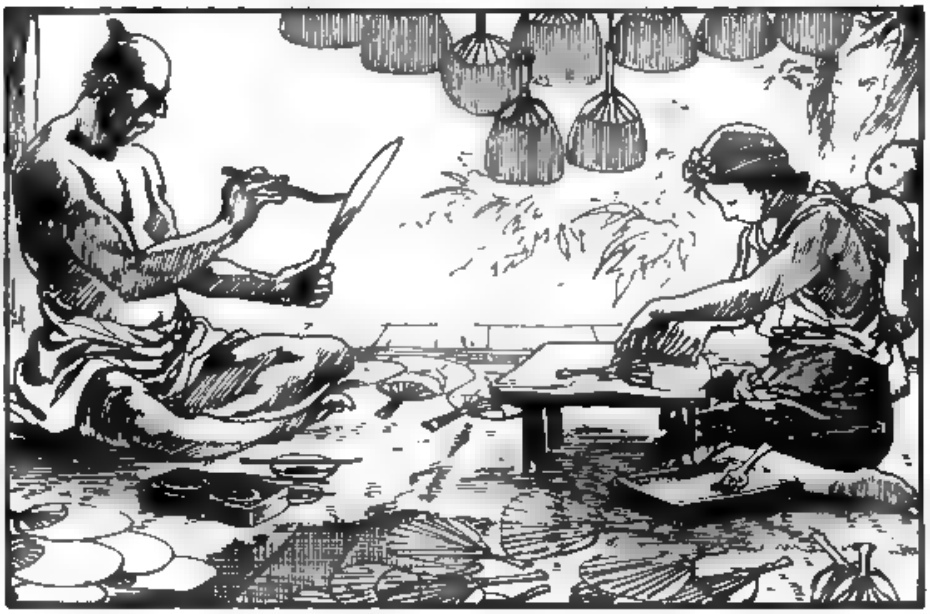
九転十転 (くてんじってん)

FALL DOWN NINE TIMES, TEN TIMES...

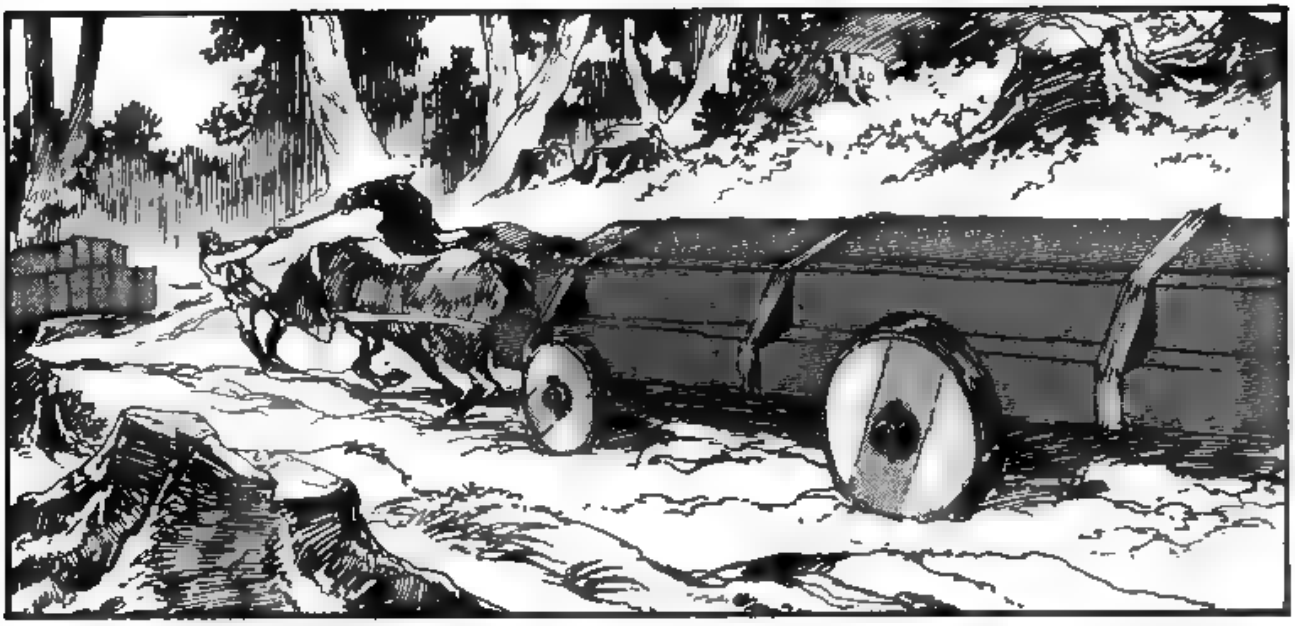

MANY SATSUMA SAMURAI ENDURED POVERTY-STRICKEN LIVES AS THEY WORKED THEIR PIECEMEAL JOBS.

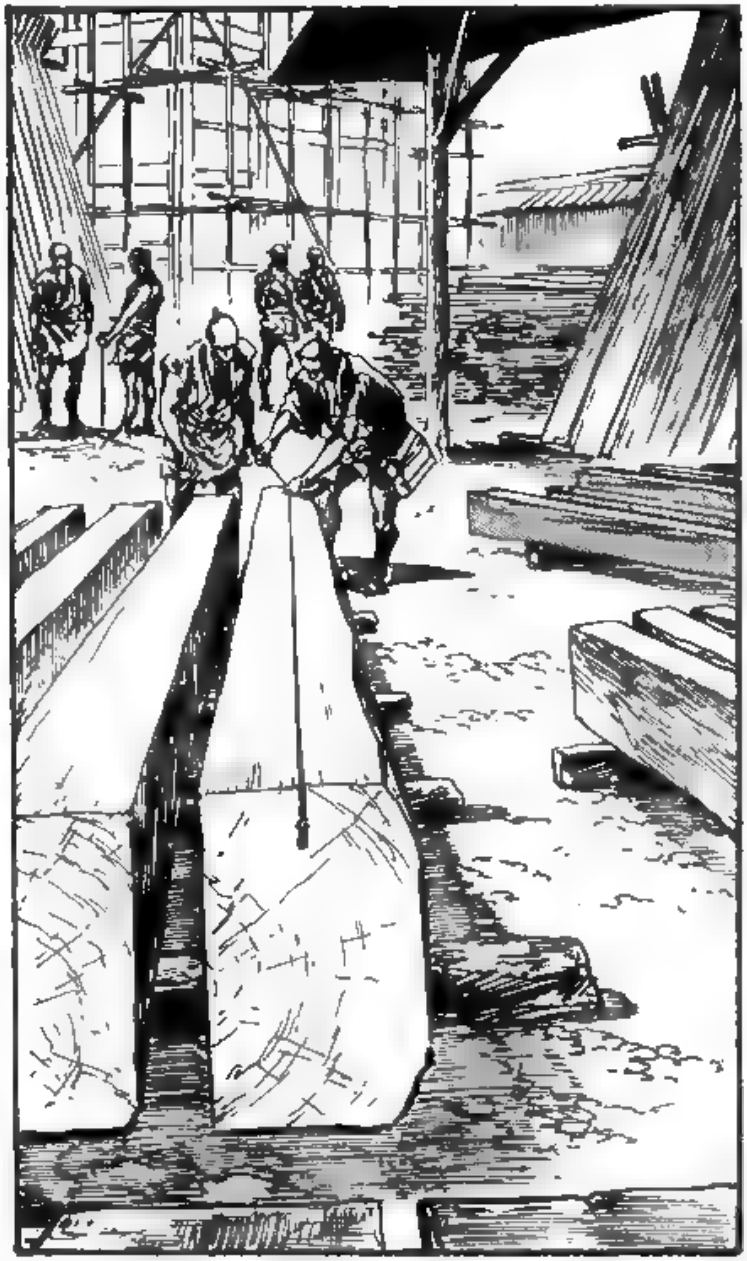


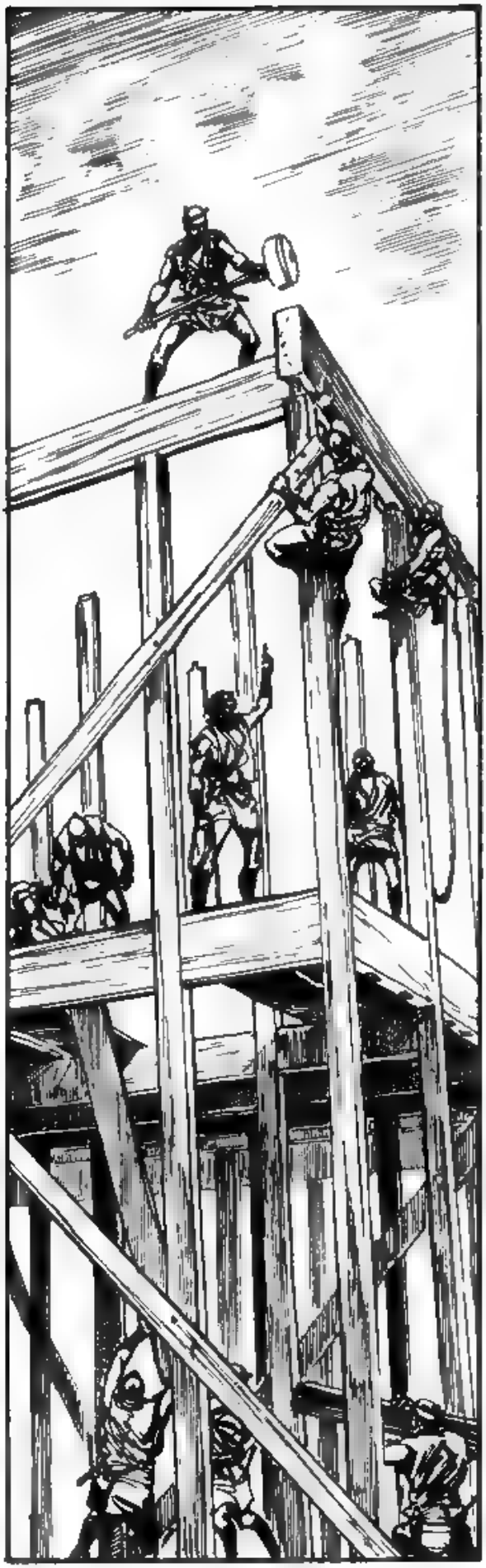


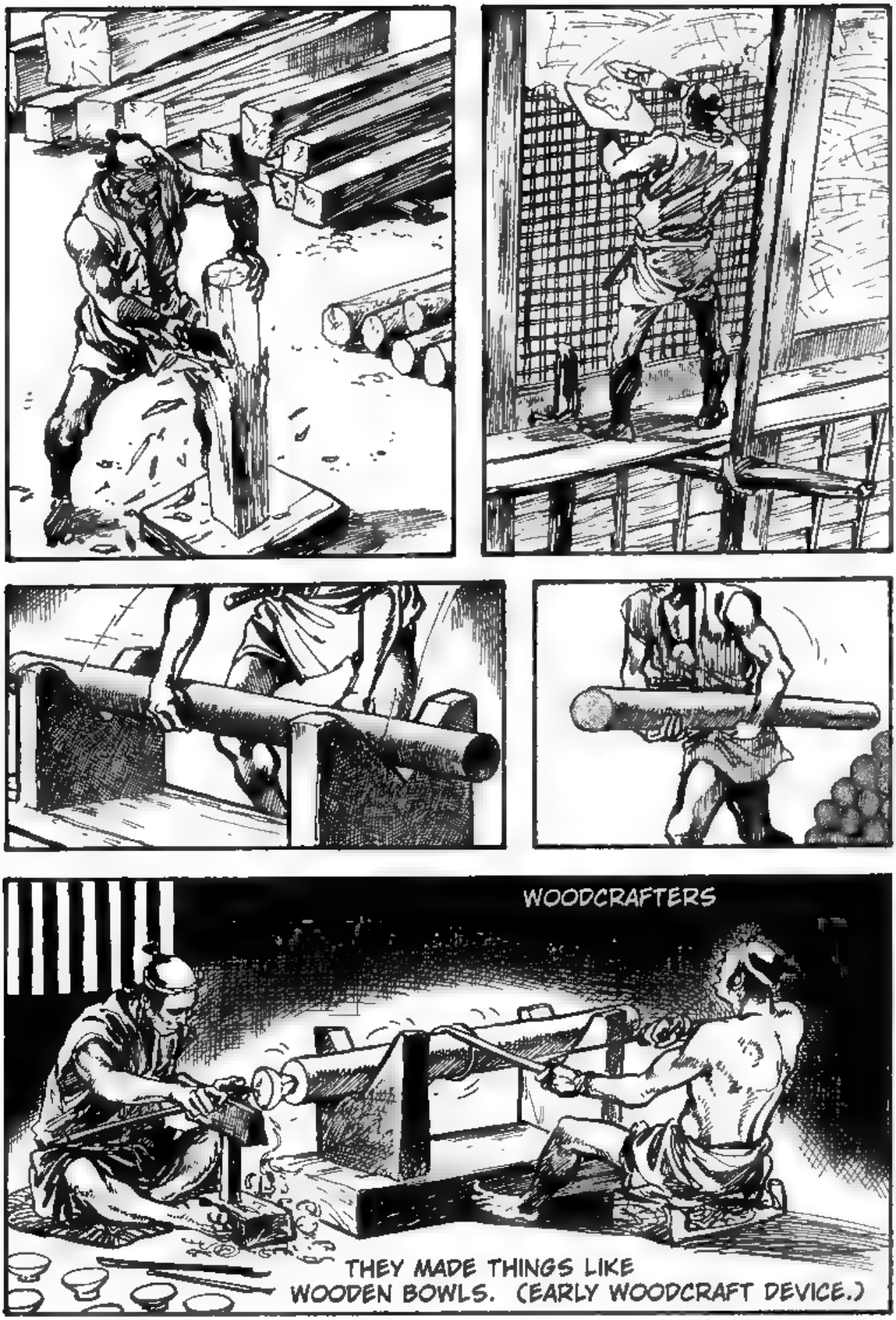


LOGGING AND LUMBERING WERE SOME OF THE HARSHER TASKS. THEY SMELLED FOUL FROM SAWDUST AND POWDERED CEDAR.

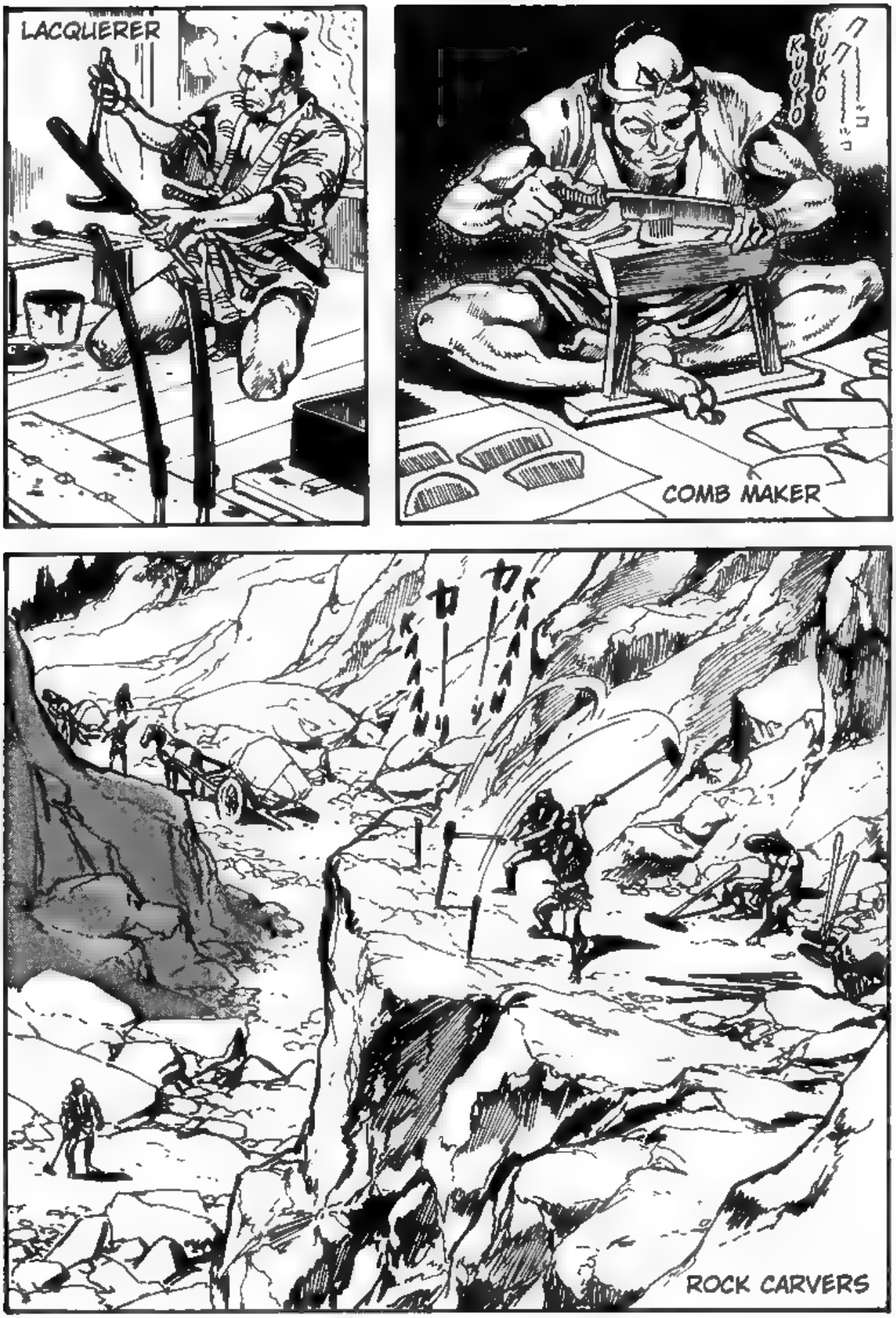







WOODCRAFTERS
THEY MADE THINGS LIKE WOODEN BOWLS. (EARLY WOODCRAFT DEVICE.)

GETA MAKERS

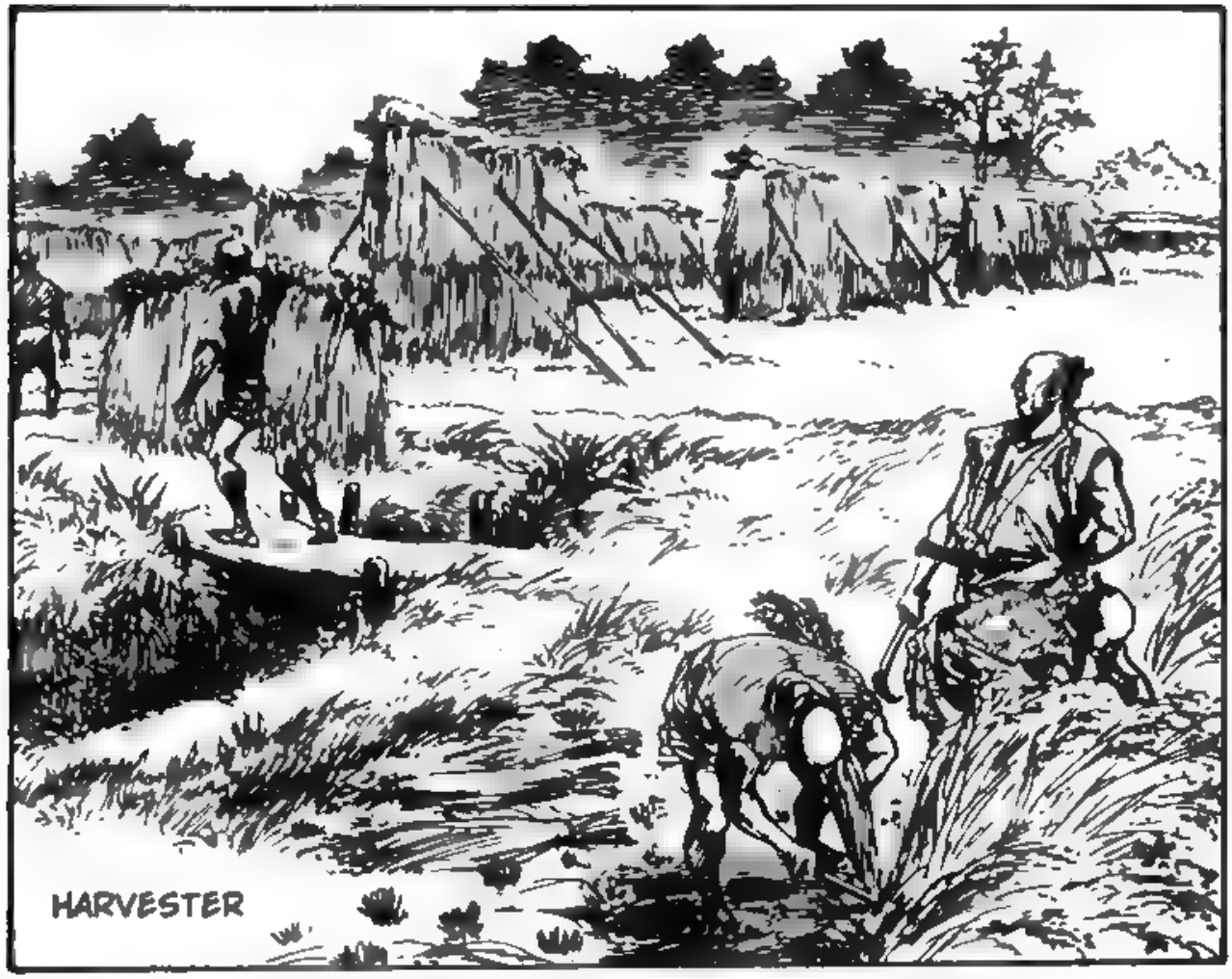

LACQUERER
KUUKO KUUKO
COMB MAKER
KAAN KAAN
ROCK CARVERS

STONECUTTER AND STONECRAFTER
TATAMI MAKER
BLACKSMITH

PAPERMAKER

WHEELWRIGHT

DYE-WORKS


HARVESTER

GROWER

CHOOSE WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
THEY SOLD THEIR OLD CLOTHES TO PEASANTS.
VERY NICE DAY, IT IS, SIR.

NOT ONLY DID THEY TAKE ON THE OCCUPATIONS THAT WERE PERMITTED ONLY TO *SAMURAI*, BUT ALSO ANYTHING THEY COULD...
...AND ENDURED THEIR DESTITUTION.

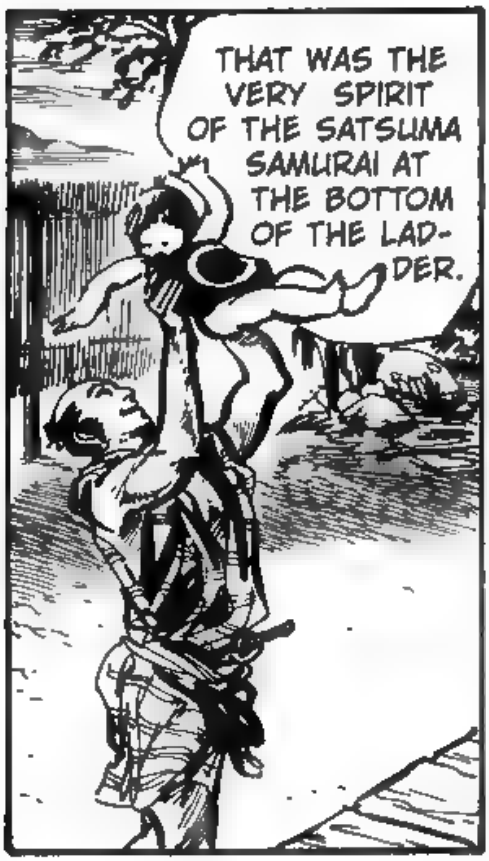
...IF THEY HAD IT, THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THE WORK!
POVERTY DIDN'T QUITE MEAN LACKING MONEY. BUT STILL, THEY WERE IN WANT OF MONEY...AND MONEY...

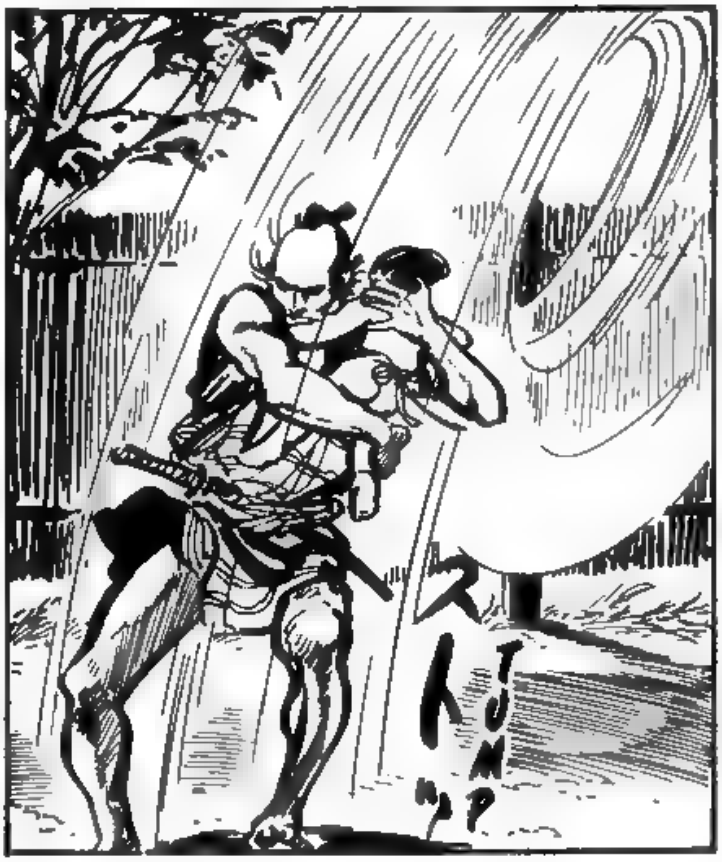
BUT THERE WAS NO GREAT FORTUNE IN SIGHT THAT THEY COULD RELY ON, AND THEY CONSIDERED IT COWARDLY TO DREAM OF SUCH.

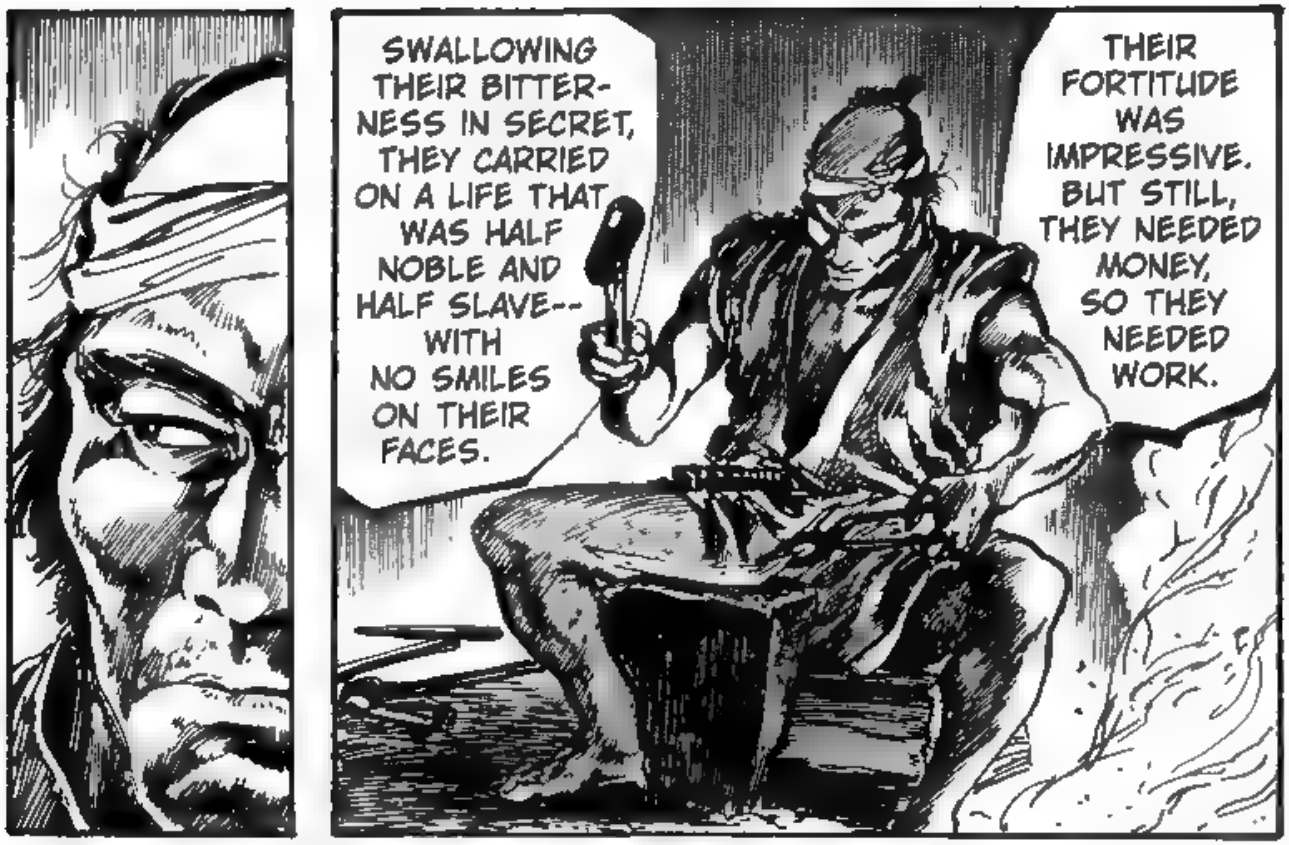
SO, THEY WOULD DECLARE...

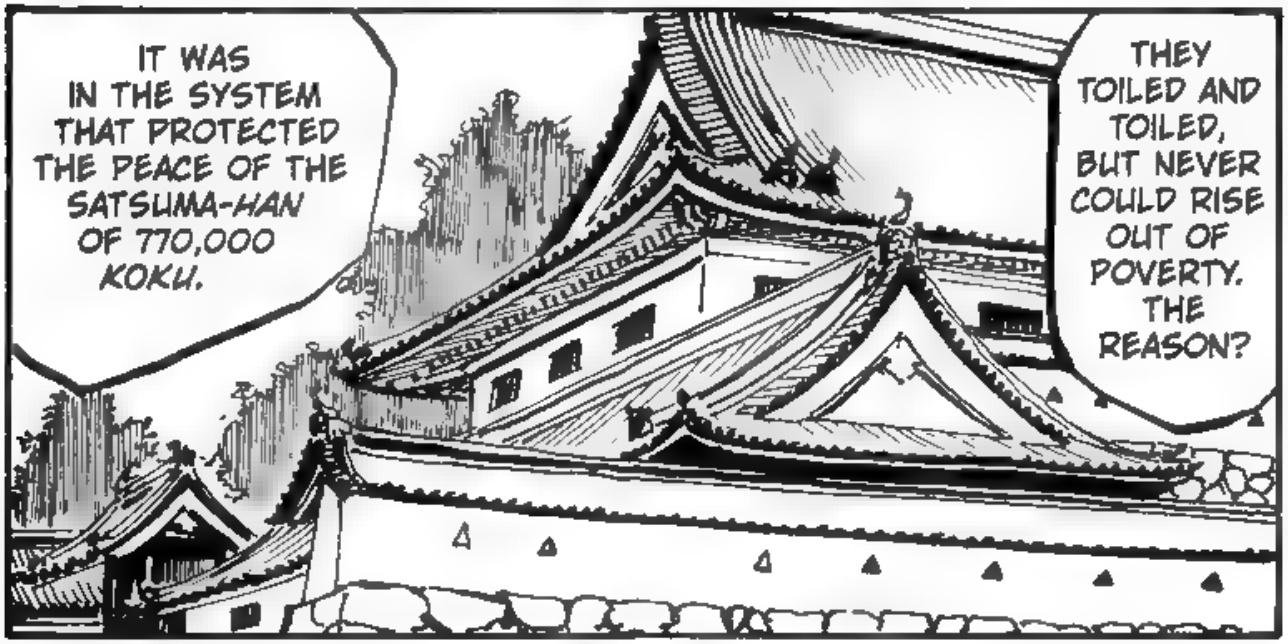
SO THEY ALL THOUGHT.

STOP WORRYING ABOUT MONEY! LARGE OR SMALL, GOLD COINS ARE JUST COLD JUNK, ANYWAY!!
NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS MAY GET, FALL DOWN EIGHT TIMES, SOMERSAULT AND STAND UP STRAIGHT NINE, TEN. WE'LL SHOW WHAT KIND OF MEN WE ARE!


THAT WAS THE VERY SPIRIT OF THE SATSUMA SAMURAI AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAD-DER.


JUMP


SWALLOWING THEIR BITTERNESS IN SECRET, THEY CARRIED ON A LIFE THAT WAS HALF NOBLE AND HALF SLAVE-- WITH NO SMILES ON THEIR FACES.
THEIR FORTITUDE WAS IMPRESSIVE. BUT STILL, THEY NEEDED MONEY, SO THEY NEEDED WORK.


IT WAS IN THE SYSTEM THAT PROTECTED THE PEACE OF THE SATSUMA-HAN OF 770,000 KOKU.
THEY TOILED AND TOILED, BUT NEVER COULD RISE OUT OF POVERTY. THE REASON?

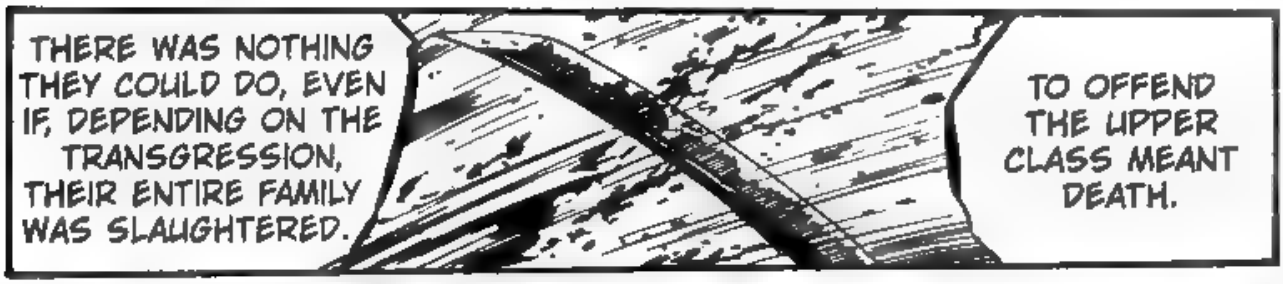
THAT MIGHT BE WHAT THEY TAUGHT SAMURAI-- BUT THE FACT IS, THIS HARD LIFE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO LAUGH.
"SHOW HALF A TOOTH EVERY THREE DAYS." "HALF A DIMPLE EVERY THREE YEARS." IT'S ENOUGH FOR MEN TO LAUGH ONCE EVERY SIX YEARS. DO NOT WASTE YOUR LAUGH FOR CHEAP.

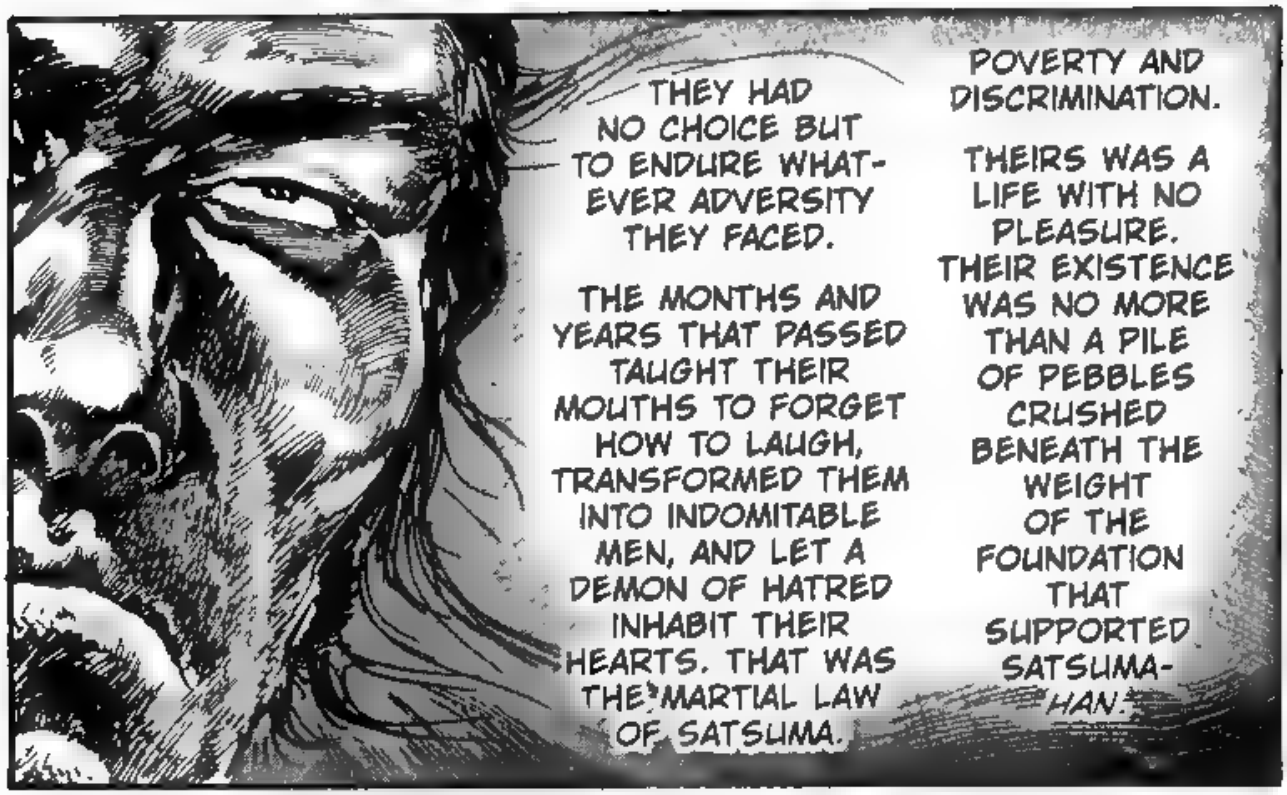
THEIR POVERTY EVEN DROVE THEM TO STEAL. AND WHEN THEY STOLE, THEY HAD TO LIE.

BUT WORDS LIKE "LIAR" AND "ROBBER" WERE THINGS THEY WISHED TO AVOID EVEN IF IT COST THEM THEIR LIVES.

I'LL TAKE IT BACK!

AND IT WAS ALWAYS THE LOWER CLASS WHO PAID THE PRICE IN THE END.
CONFLICTS BETWEEN UPPER CLASS SAMURAI AND LOWER CLASS SAMURAI SURFACED EVERY-WHERE IN SATSUMA-HAN.

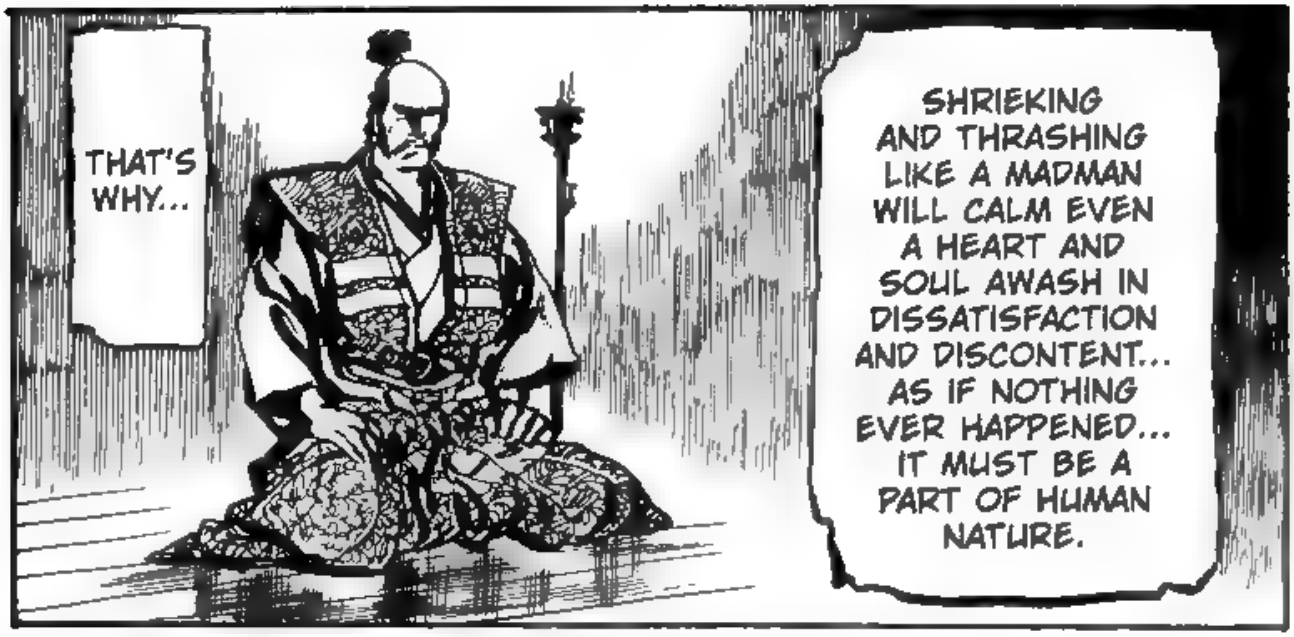

THERE WAS NOTHING THEY COULD DO, EVEN IF, DEPENDING ON THE TRANSGRESSION, THEIR ENTIRE FAMILY WAS SLAUGHTERED.
TO OFFEND THE UPPER CLASS MEANT DEATH.


THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ENDURE WHAT-EVER ADVERSITY THEY FACED.
THE MONTHS AND YEARS THAT PASSED TAUGHT THEIR MOUTHS TO FORGET HOW TO LAUGH, TRANSFORMED THEM INTO INDOMITABLE MEN, AND LET A DEMON OF HATRED INHABIT THEIR HEARTS. THAT WAS THE MARTIAL LAW OF SATSUMA.
POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION.
THEIRS WAS A LIFE WITH NO PLEASURE. THEIR EXISTENCE WAS NO MORE THAN A PILE OF PEBBLES CRUSHED BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF THE FOUNDATION THAT SUPPORTED SATSUMA-HAN.

AT FIVE EVERY MORNING, ONE GŌSHI WOULD FLY OUT OF HIS SHACK.

EMITTING WHAT SOUNDED LIKE A MONKEY'S SCREECH, HE'D BATTER A WOODEN STAKE SOME THREE THOUSAND TIMES.
THE NOISE WOULD REVERBERATE THROUGH THE SILENCE OF THE DAWN.

GENZA-DON'S ALREADY AT IT!
お！
"OH!"
SOON ENOUGH, THE SHARP, MORNING SOUND OF HIM HACKING AT THE WOOD WOULD ECHO OFF OF EVERY HOUSE.
KIEEEH
THE FACE OF THE BEATER WAS SAID TO EXPRESS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THE HATRED TYPICALLY DIRECTED AT THE ENEMY.
IT WAS AN OUTLET-- AN EXPLOSION-- OF THEIR FRUSTRATION WITH THEIR ILL FATE.


THAT'S WHY...
SHRIEKING AND THRASHING LIKE A MADMAN WILL CALM EVEN A HEART AND SOUL AWASH IN DISSATISFACTION AND DISCONTENT... AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED... IT MUST BE A PART OF HUMAN NATURE.

...MAKING IT OBLIGATORY TO PRACTICE AT DAWN AND DUSK WILL FURTHER IMPROVE THEIR BATTLE SKILLS AND QUIET THEIR UGLY FEELINGS... I BELIEVE IT WILL KILL TWO BIRDS AT ONCE.
JIGEN-RYŪ IS INDEED A PERFECT ART OF SWORDSMANSHIP. MAKING IT A TRADITION OF OUR CLAN...
FINE.

IN A WAY, BY MAKING SHREWD USE OF HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY AND BY ENFORCING THE JIGEN-RYŪ MEASURE, THEY CONTROLLED THEIR UNHAPPY SUBJECTS.
PERHAPS THE MEASURE HAD THE EFFECT THEY SOUGHT. THERE IS NO ENTRY IN SATSUMA'S RECORD ABOUT A REBELLION BORN OF DISCONTENT.

AND THE STRONG-WILLED BECAME EVER MORE DOGGED.
THE WEAK SOULS WHO COULD NOT WITHSTAND THE POVERTY AND DISCRIMI-NATION LOST THEIR MINDS.
AND IN REGARDS TO THOSE WHO LET THEIR DIS-CONTENT BURST OUT FROM THEIR BODIES...
THOSE WHO ACCUMULATED TOO MUCH STRESS EITHER DIED OF ILLNESS OR OF MADNESS.
IT SHOULD BE EASY TO SEE HOW DEEP THE TENDRILS OF THEIR FURY WENT.
...THERE WAS AN EPISODE OF A MAN WHO FELLED A GREAT PINE TREE IN JUST THREE DAYS.

THE MORE DOGGED THEIR CHARACTER AND THE DEEPER THEIR DISCONTENT, THE GREATER THEIR SEEMINGLY INFINITE POWER BECAME.
CONSE-QUENTLY, THEIR *JIGEN-RYŪ* BECAME FORMI-DABLE.
AND...
...THE *HIEMONTORI* WAS HELD FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE WHO COULD NOT SETTLE THEIR DISSATIS-FACTION WITH *JIGEN-RYŪ* ALONE.
HOW-EVER...
...THEY WERE NO LONGER SIMPLE-MINDED ENOUGH TO BE SATED BY *HIEMON-TORI* ALONE.

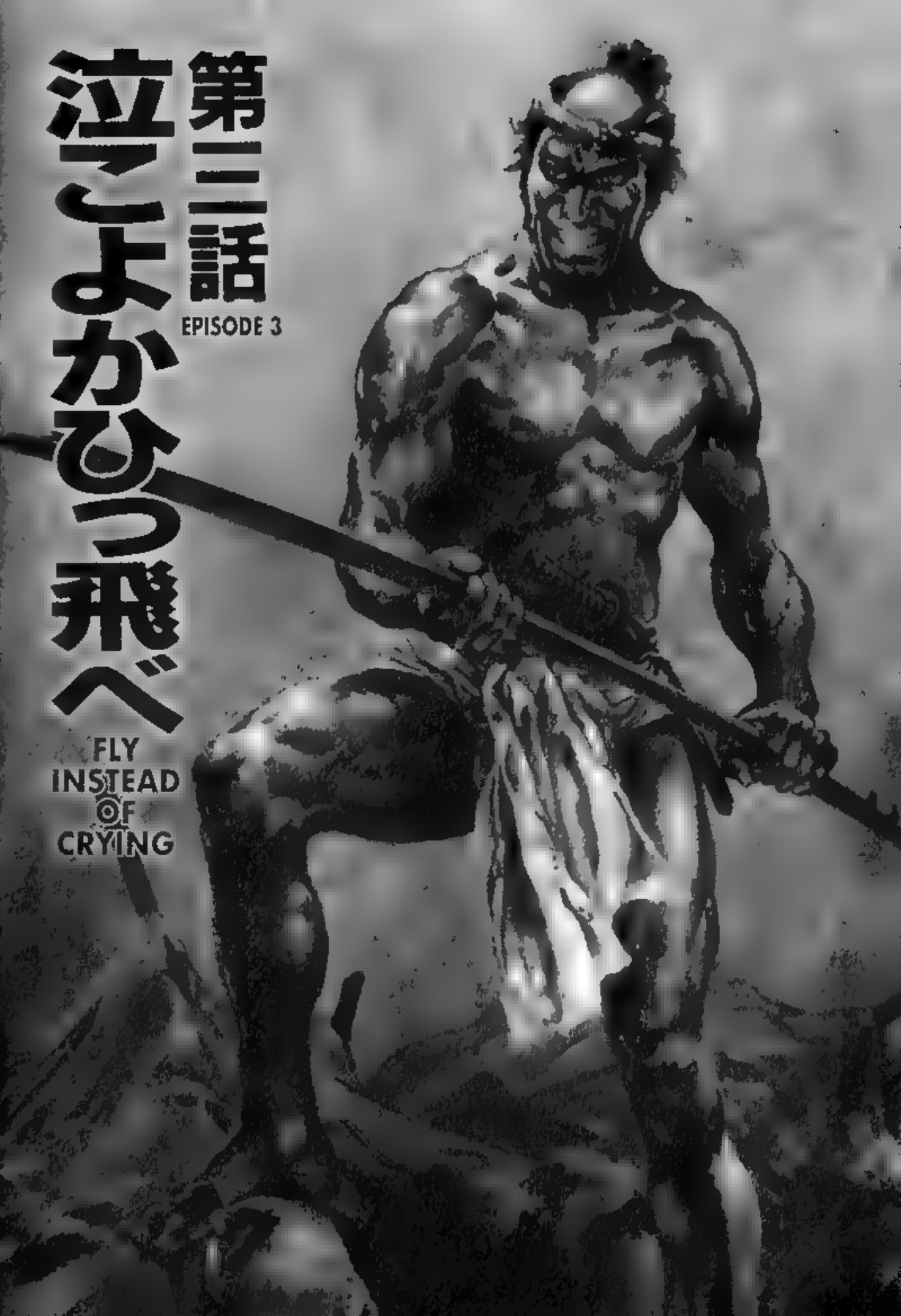
EPISODE 2 / THE END

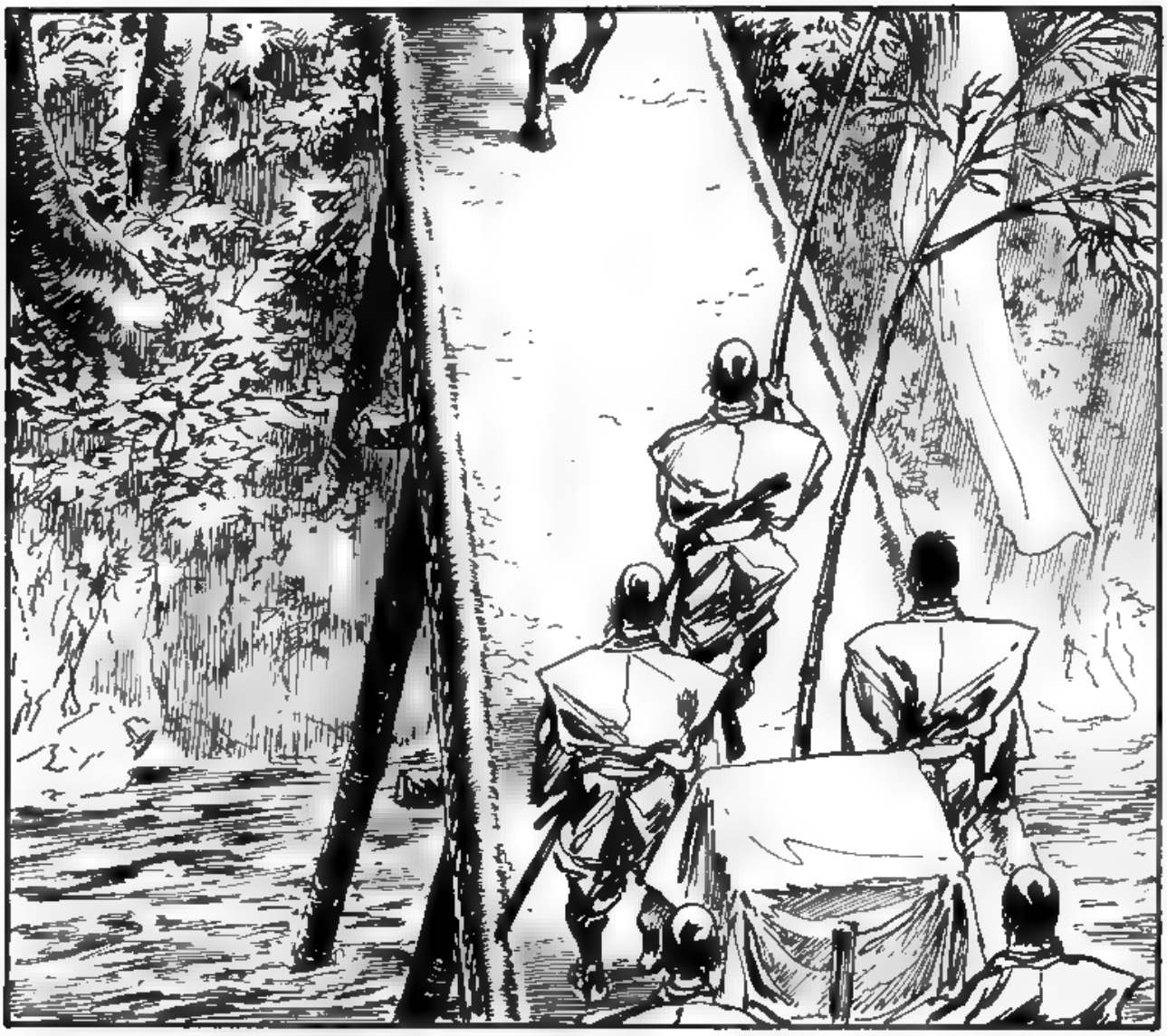
魔奪戦士伝

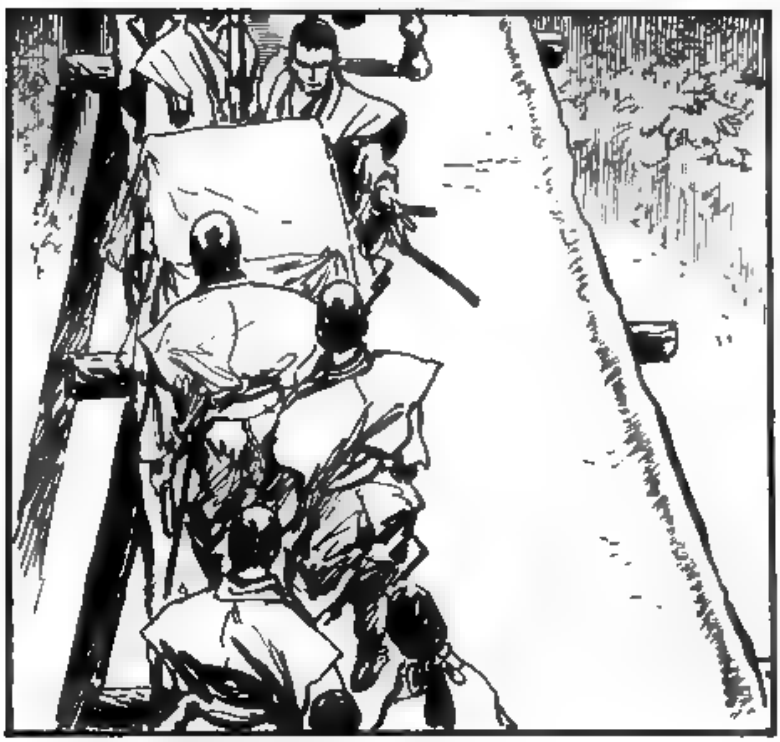
100 MANGA

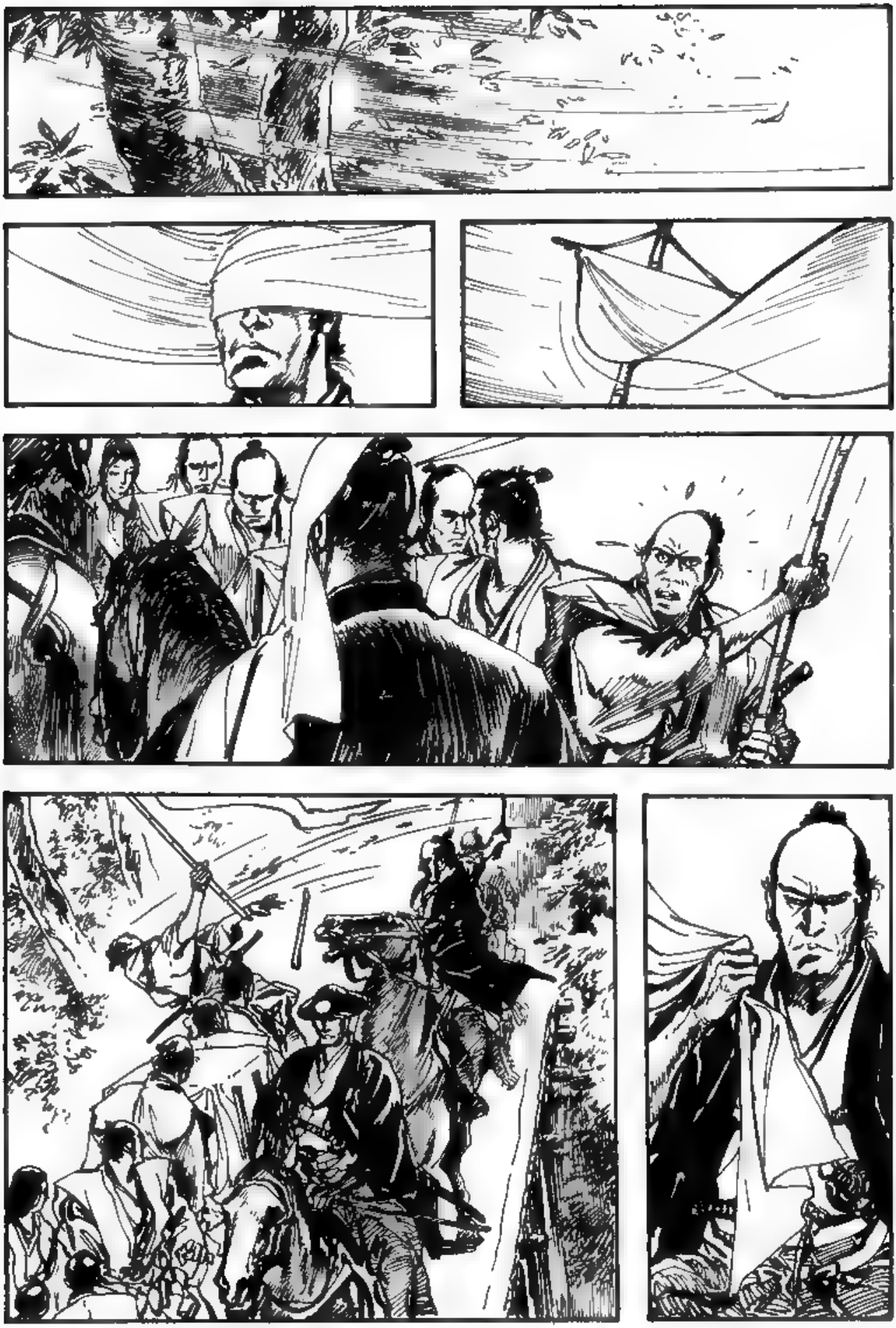
第三話
EPISODE 3

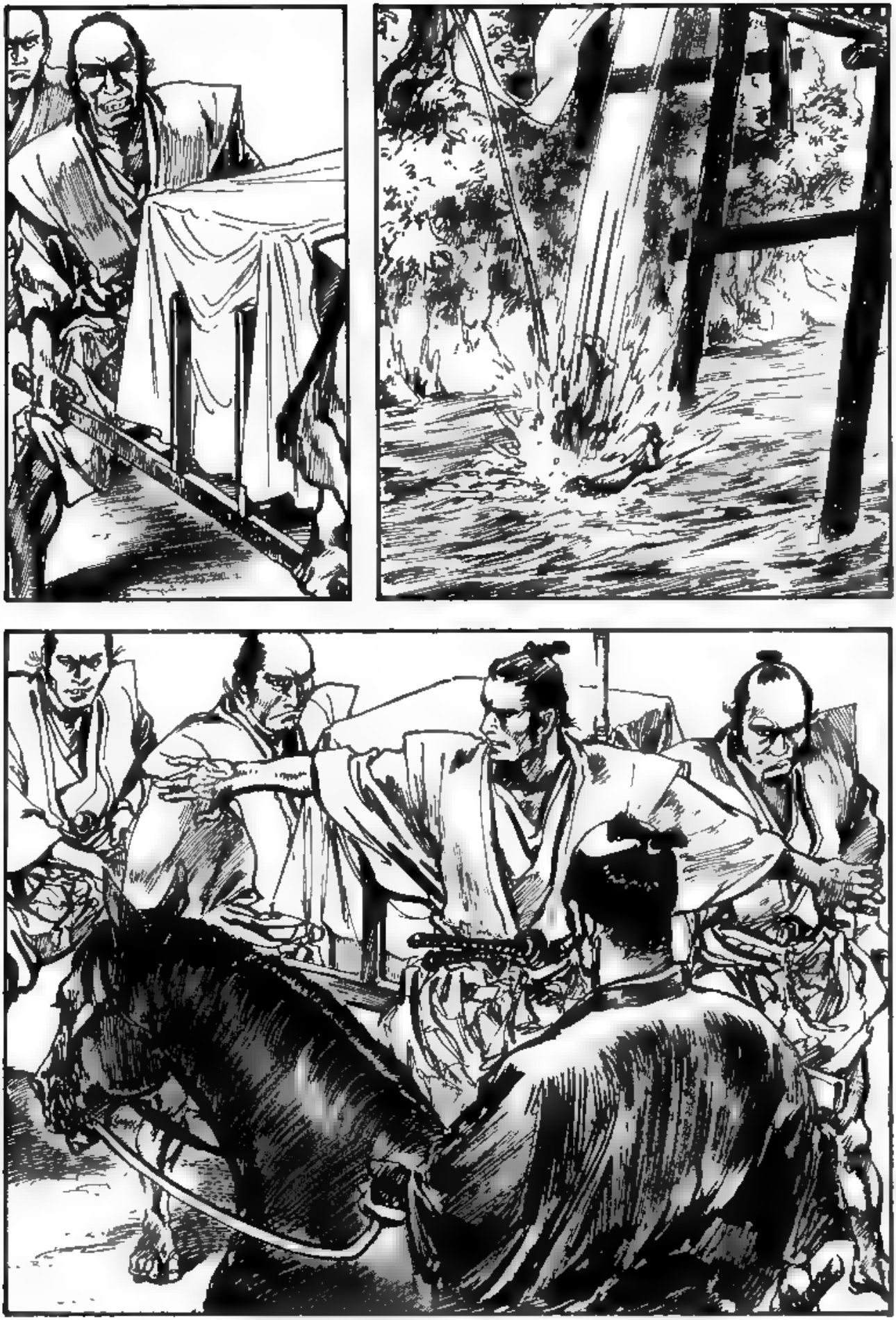
泣こよかひっ飛べ
FLY INSTEAD OF CRYING











SPLOOOSSH.

FINDING THE DEAD IS OUR PRIORITY.
DON'T YELL!
SAKON! HOW CAN I REMAIN QUIET AFTER WHAT HE DID?!

I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD DO NOTHING ABOUT IT. THE TIME WILL COME FOR US TO ACT.
IT'S EASY TO KILL THEM. BUT WE'RE THE ONES WHO'D BE SLAUGHTERED IN THE END.
IT GOES WITH-OUT SAYING!

BUT WHAT GOOD WILL RIOTING DO? ALL WE END UP WITH IS MORE GRAVES.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT ALL LOWER CLASS GŌSHI HAVE TO LIVE WITH. THEY KILLED MY BROTHER-IN-LAW AND THREW DOWN THE COFFIN. I HAVE HALF A MIND NOT TO LET THIS GO.

BUT IS IT TRULY YOUR DESIRE TO DIE? WHAT ABOUT YOUR WIVES AND CHILDREN? THEY'D HAVE TO CARRY ON, ENDURING THE SAME OLD PROBLEMS.
I CAN SEE YOU'RE PREPARED TO MEET YOUR DEATH.

LET'S FLY INSTEAD OF CRYING, I SAY.
DON'T ARGUE. WE DON'T NEED TO TALK THIS OVER ANY-MORE.

IF YOU ARE THAT PREPARED, WE'LL TAKE ACTION.
FINE.

ABSO-
LUTELY.
DID YOU MAKE SURE TO SEVER THE HEADS COM-PLETELY?
GOOD. TONIGHT, WE'LL SLAUGHTER EVERY TYRANT IN TOWN!!

SPLORCH!

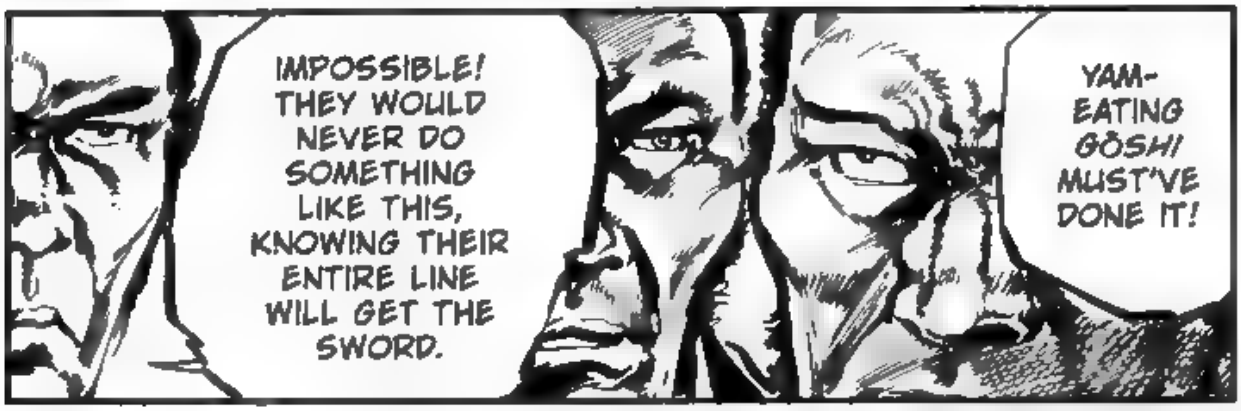
SHAA

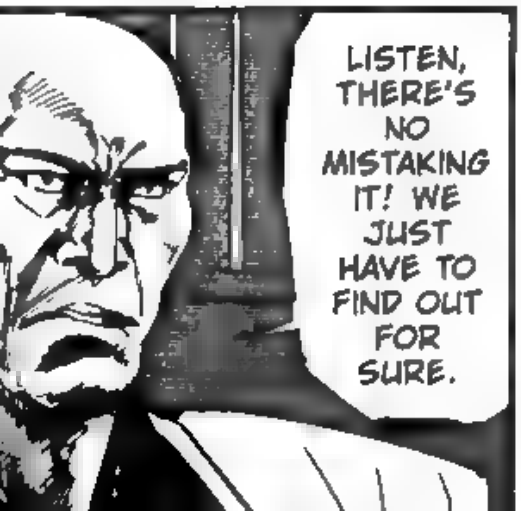
GLUKK

FWISH

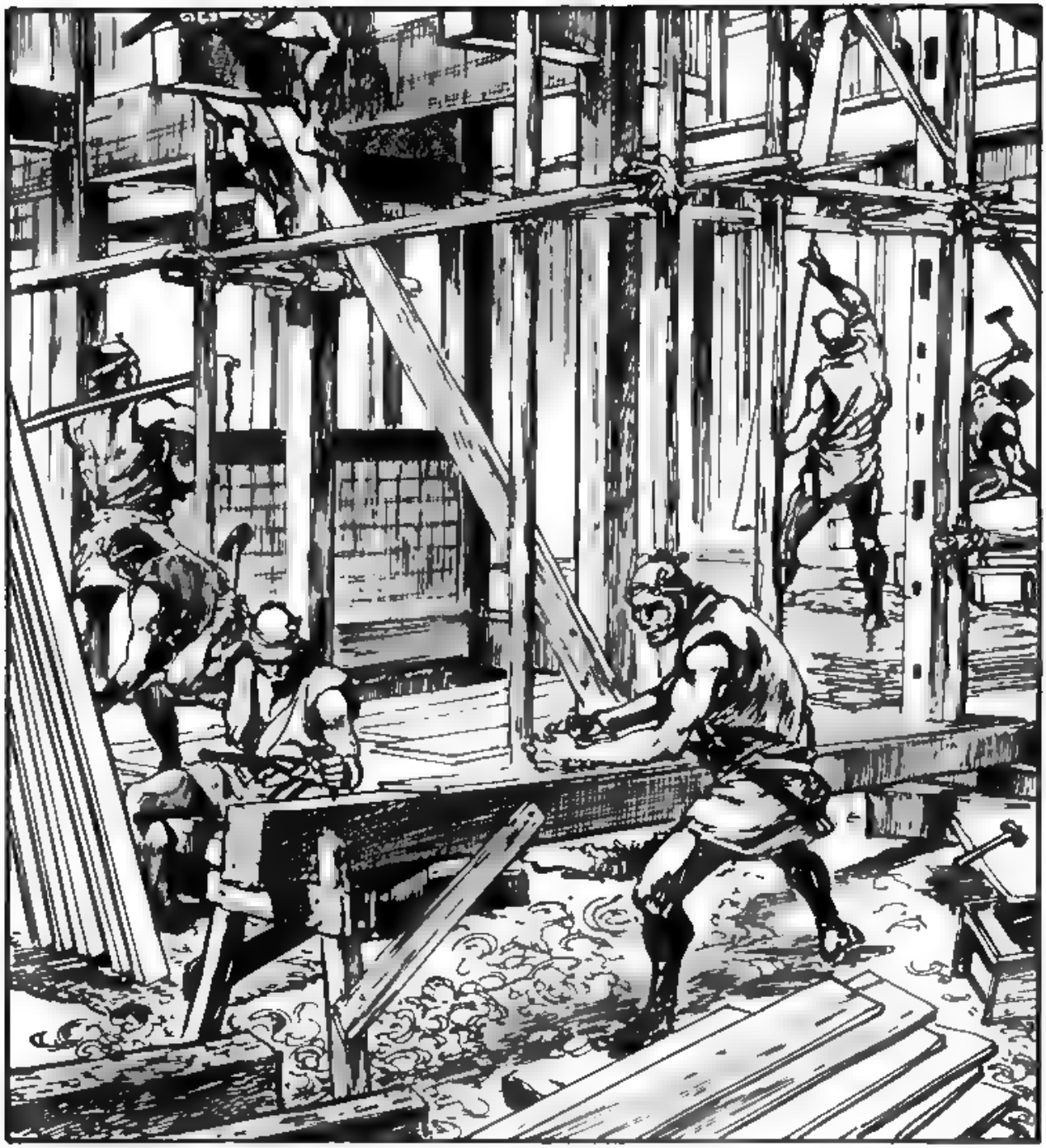
THOMP!
BASHA
ハーメ…!

THEN WHO?!
NO! IT'S ONLY REVENGE!
IT MUST BE THE SHOGUNATE! I SAY THEY SENT NINJA!!
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT JUST A FEW ATTACKS BY THE OUTS!


IMPOSSIBLE! THEY WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, KNOWING THEIR ENTIRE LINE WILL GET THE SWORD.
YAM-EATING GÔSHI MUST'VE DONE IT!


LISTEN, THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT! WE JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT FOR SURE.

NOT EVER!
NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED IN THE HISTORY OF SATSUMA!



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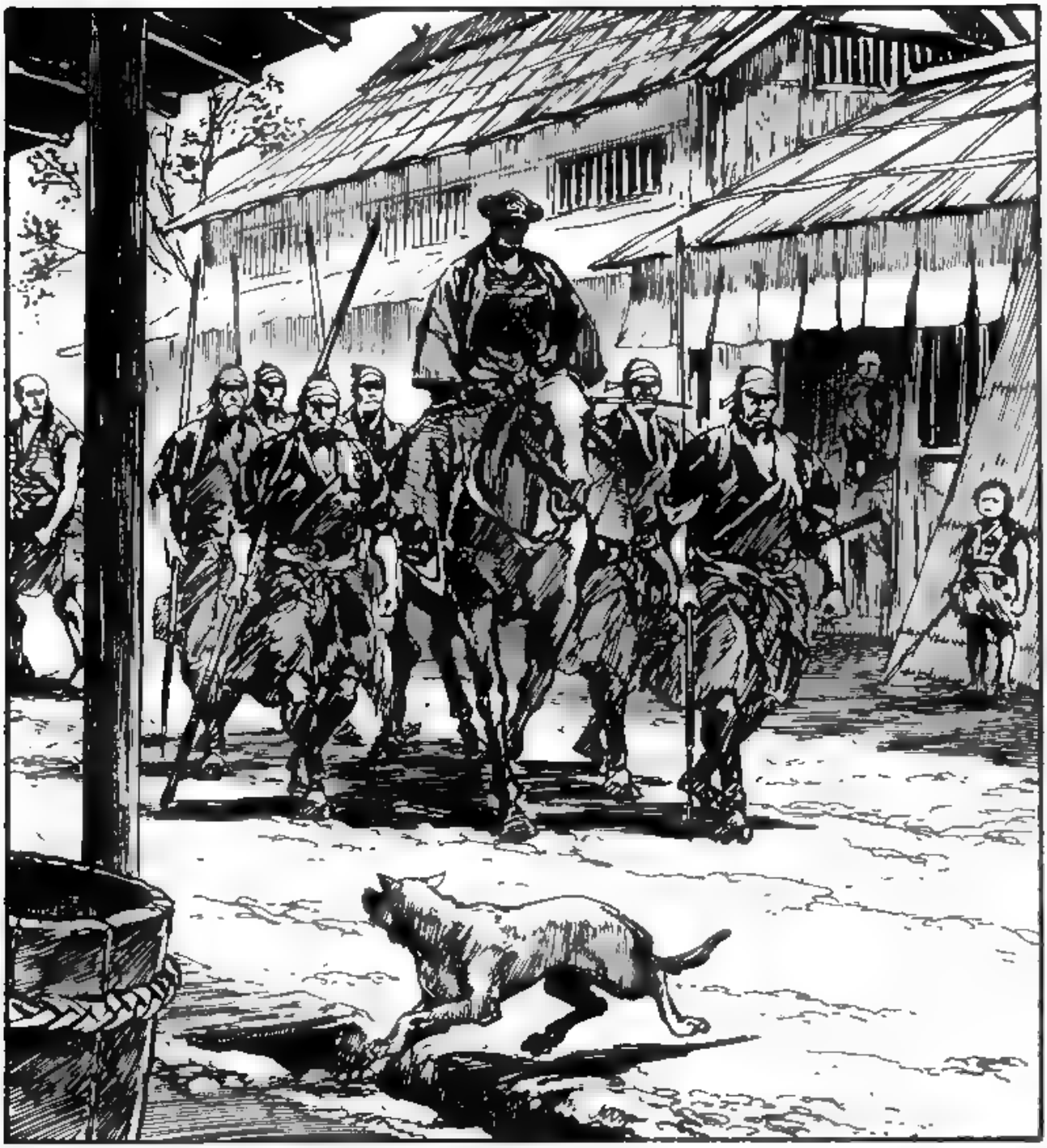


HEY, AN OFFICER...

SHNNG

SO YOU'RE THE ONES WHO MURDERED THE JŌKASHI.
BE CHAINED QUIETLY!

"HOLD IT!
PLEASE LINE UP, WILL YOU?

YOU READY?
ビシュ…!
BISHU

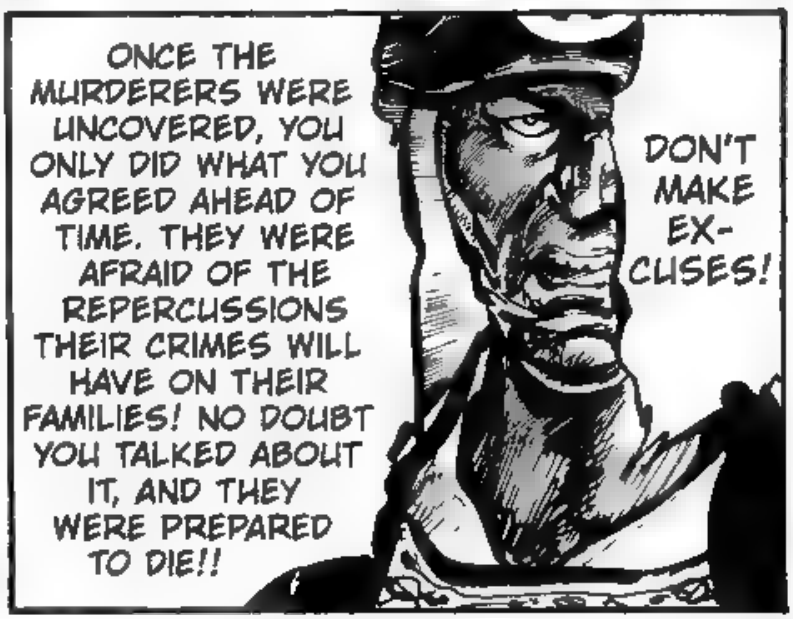
DUP!
HYU

WE KNEW OUR FATE THE MOMENT WE KILLED THEM! WE'RE READY ANYTIME.
WHEN THEY DO, WILL YOU FINISH US? IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING THEM SHAME US WITH THEIR ROPES AND THEN PARADING OUR HEADS!
THEY'LL KNOW BY TOMORROW FOR SURE.
UWA HA! I'VE GOT NO REGRETS!
FINE...I'LL FOLLOW YOU IMMEDIATELY AFTER I DO MY PART.

気でも狂いおったか!!
*HAVE YOU GONE MAD?!

WE SLAY DOGS AND TRAIN IN MARTIAL ARTS, BUT YOU CALL US MURDERERS. YAM GŌSHI WE MAY BE, BUT YOU LEAVE US NO GROUND TO STAND ON!!
IT'S EASY TO LOSE SANITY.

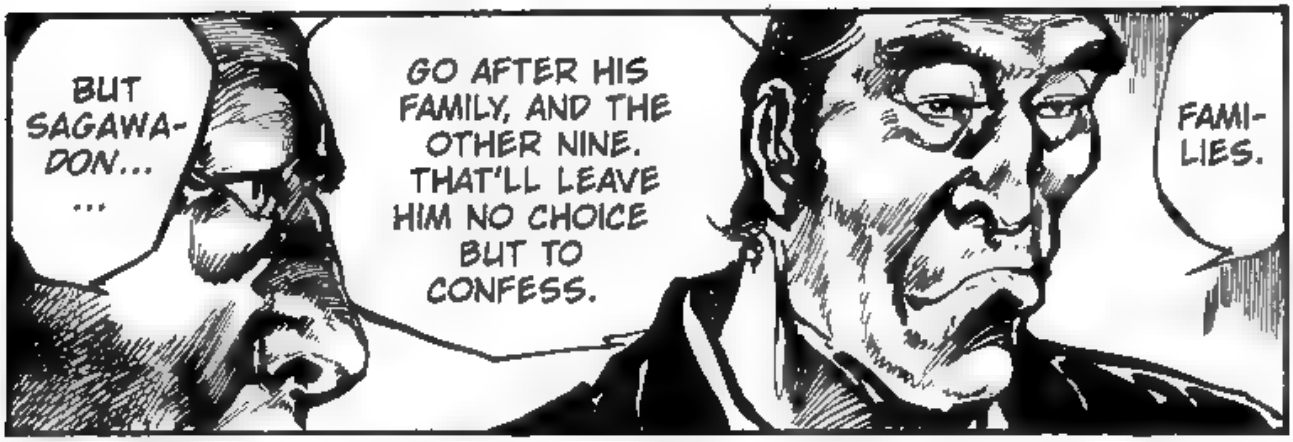
THAT IS AN OUTRA-GEOUS ACCU-SATION.


ONCE THE MURDERERS WERE UNCOVERED, YOU ONLY DID WHAT YOU AGREED AHEAD OF TIME. THEY WERE AFRAID OF THE REPERCUSSIONS THEIR CRIMES WILL HAVE ON THEIR FAMILIES! NO DOUBT YOU TALKED ABOUT IT, AND THEY WERE PREPARED TO DIE!!
DON'T MAKE EX-CUSES!

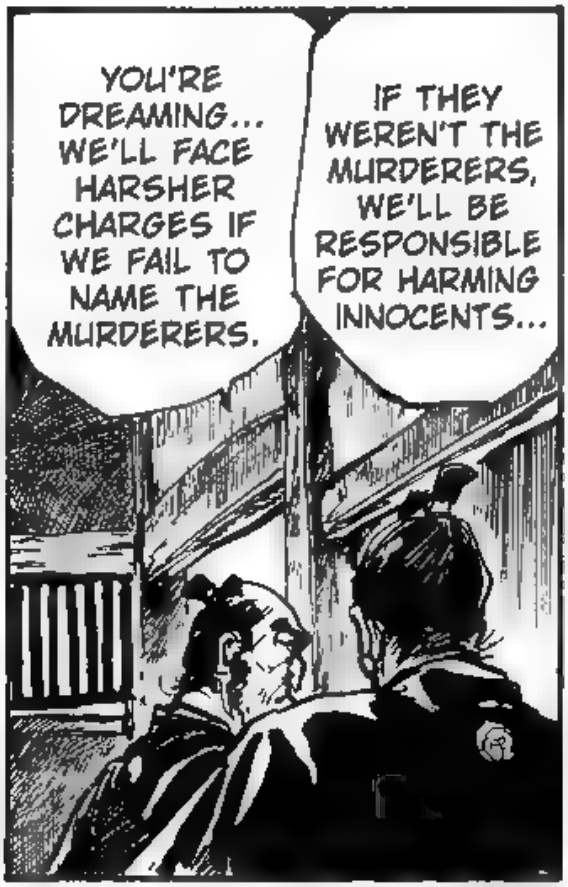
捕えろ！
*CAPTURE HIM! WE'LL MAKE HIM TALK.
HOW'S THAT?
YOU'RE BETTER OFF SPITTING THE TRUTH NOW.

SPLOOOSH

TORMENTING HIM IS PROBABLY USELESS...
STUBBORN BASTARD.


BUT SAGAWA-DON...
...
GO AFTER HIS FAMILY, AND THE OTHER NINE. THAT'LL LEAVE HIM NO CHOICE BUT TO CONFESS.
FAMI-LIES.

FINE!
BESIDES, IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO MAKE UP EXCUSES. FAMILIES OF MERE YAM GŌSHI--


YOU'RE DREAMING... WE'LL FACE HARSHER CHARGES IF WE FAIL TO NAME THE MURDERERS.
IF THEY WEREN'T THE MURDERERS, WE'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HARMING INNOCENTS...

WHOA.
...YOU WANT US TO BE THE MURDERERS THAT MUCH...
IF YOU WANT...

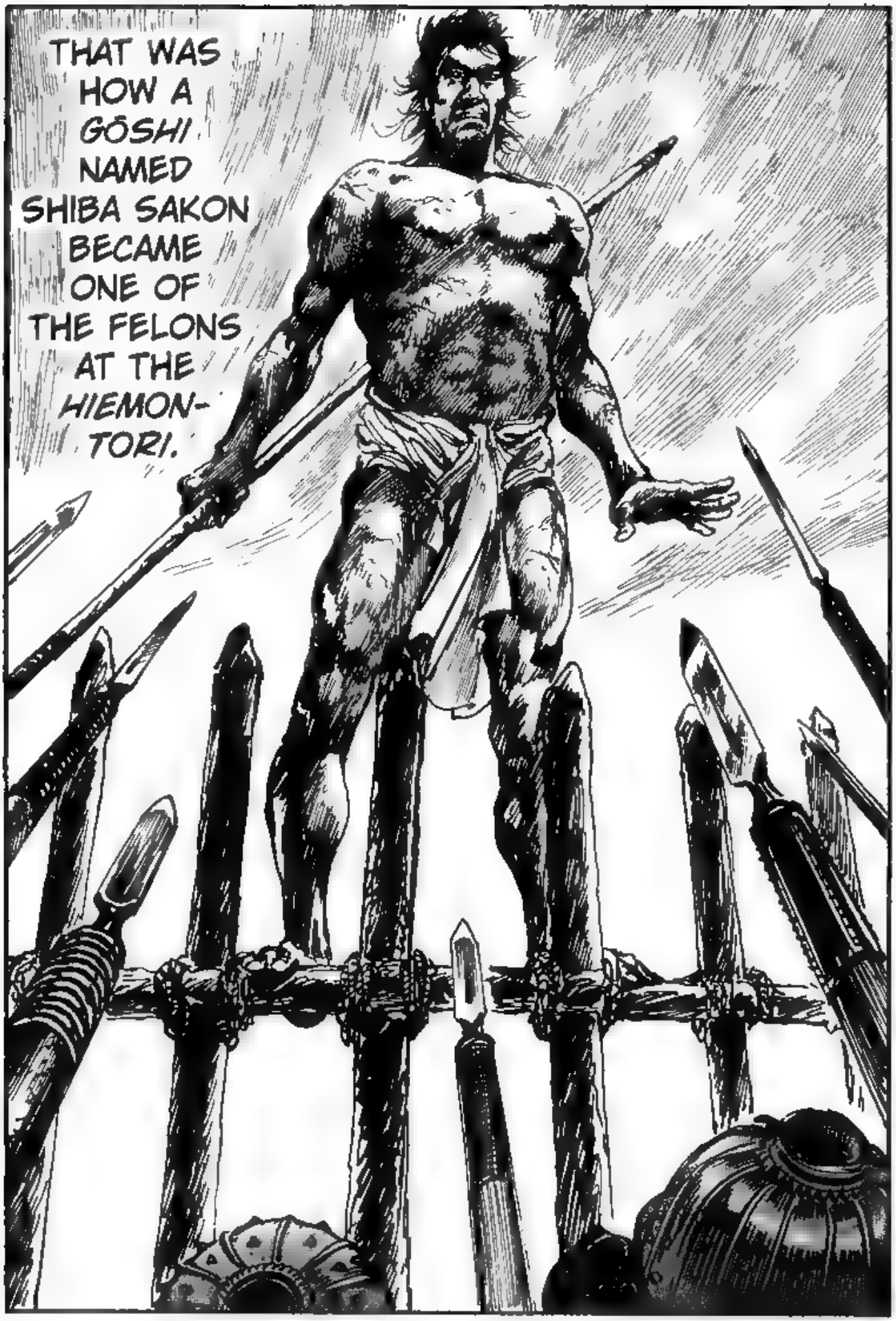
...LET ME BECOME ONE...
KRAKK

お、おのれ…!
"Y...YOU BAS-TARD!
左様
"SURE.
"I'D LOVE TO KILL YOU, JŌKASHI.
望み通り
城士のおハシらを
殺ってくれよ
斬れ!
"KILL!
"KILL HIM!

BWAM

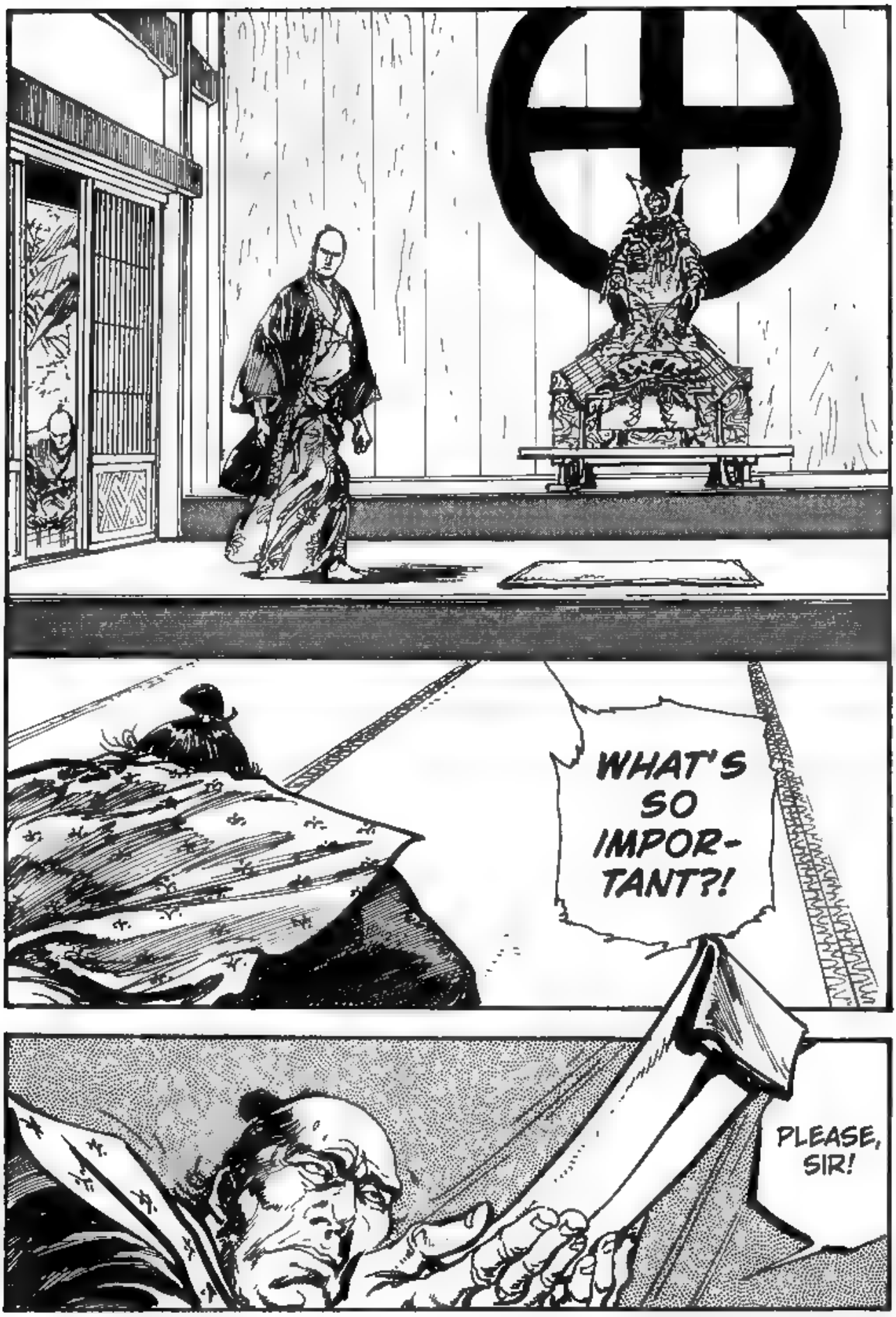
HANG ON, GONDŌ!
SHA
LET'S ADD HIM TO THE CONDEMNED CRIMINALS FOR THE UPCOMING HIEMONTORI.
THAT BASTARD! HE'S TOO HATEFUL TO FINISH OUTRIGHT!
思う存分突き刺し斬りさざんでくれなば従弟(いとこ)どんも浮かばれようし
*UNLESS WE SKEWER HIM AND CHOP HIM UP TO OUR HEARTS CONTENT, YOUR COUSIN-DON WON'T BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE.

おもしろい
*SOUNDS GOOD.
ひえもんとりで勝負しどんど
*WE'LL FIGHT IT OUT AT THE HIEMON-TORI THEN.
下郎!! その言葉忘れるな
*YOU LOWLIFE, DON'T FORGET YOUR WORDS!
ひえもんとりが日まで"
*UNTIL THE DAY OF HIEMON-TORI...
逃がすでないぜ!!
*DO NOT LET HIM ESCAPE!

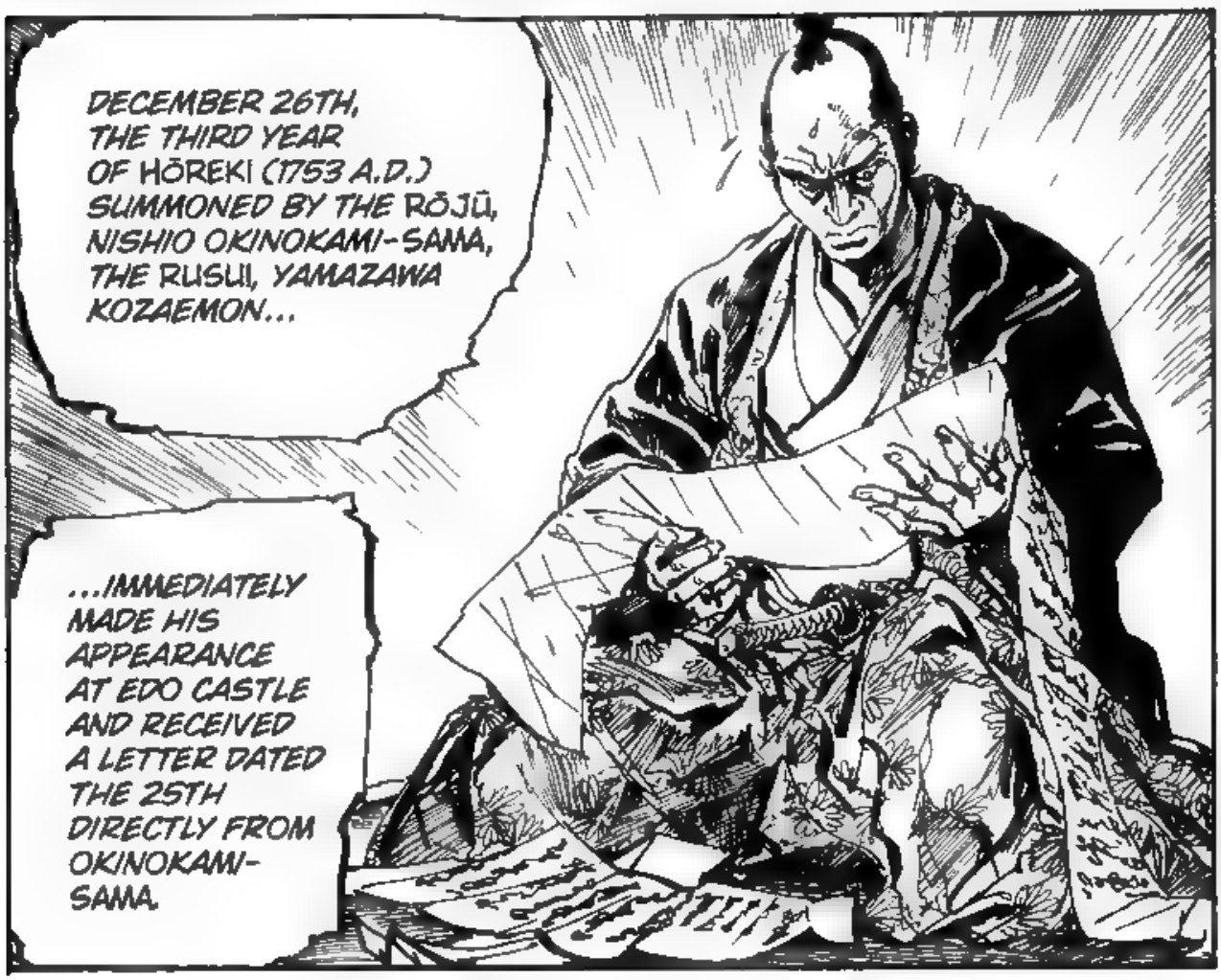

THAT WAS HOW A GŌSHI NAMED SHIBA SAKON BECAME ONE OF THE FELONS AT THE HIEMON-TORI.

突かば突けッ
罪人一人にむらがる
蟻侍共(ありざむらいども)!!
*STAB ME IF YOU DARE! SAMURAI ANTS, SWARMING OVER A SINGLE CONVICT!

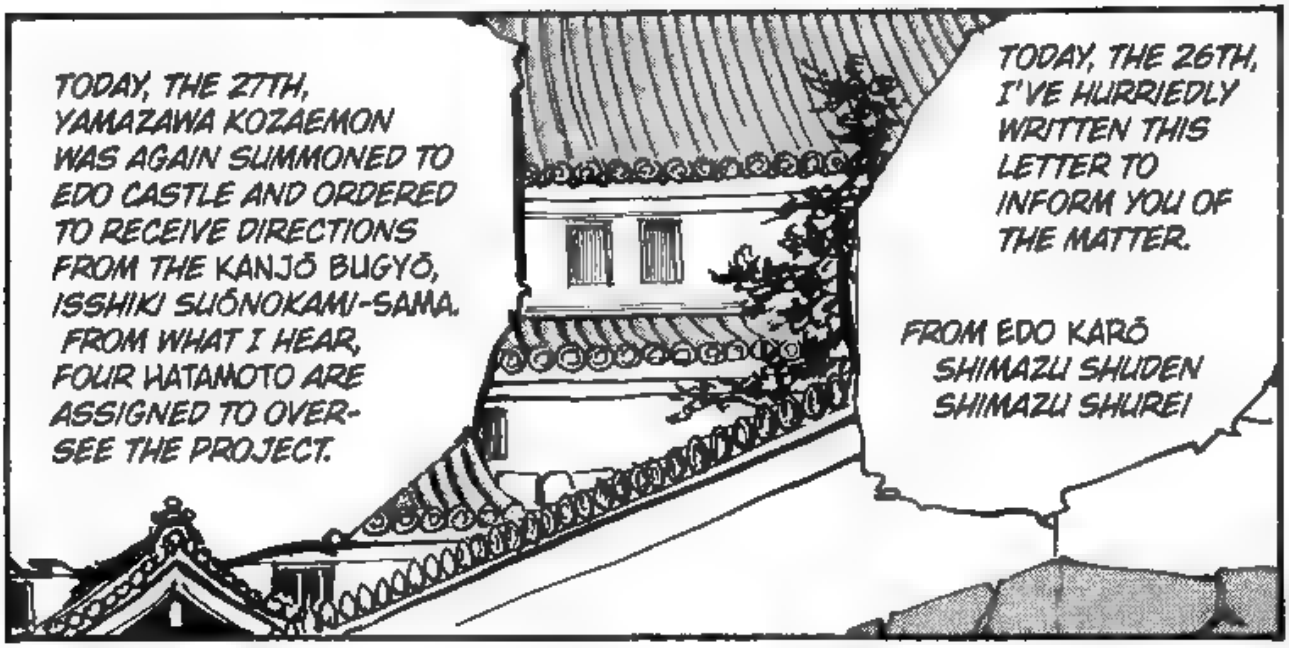
RIGHT AROUND THE SAME TIME, A MESSENGER FROM EDO RUSHED URGENTLY TO SATSUMA. NO ONE KNEW THEN THAT THE NEWS HE CARRIED WAS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO IMPACT THE ENTIRE FUTURE OF SATSUMA-HAN.

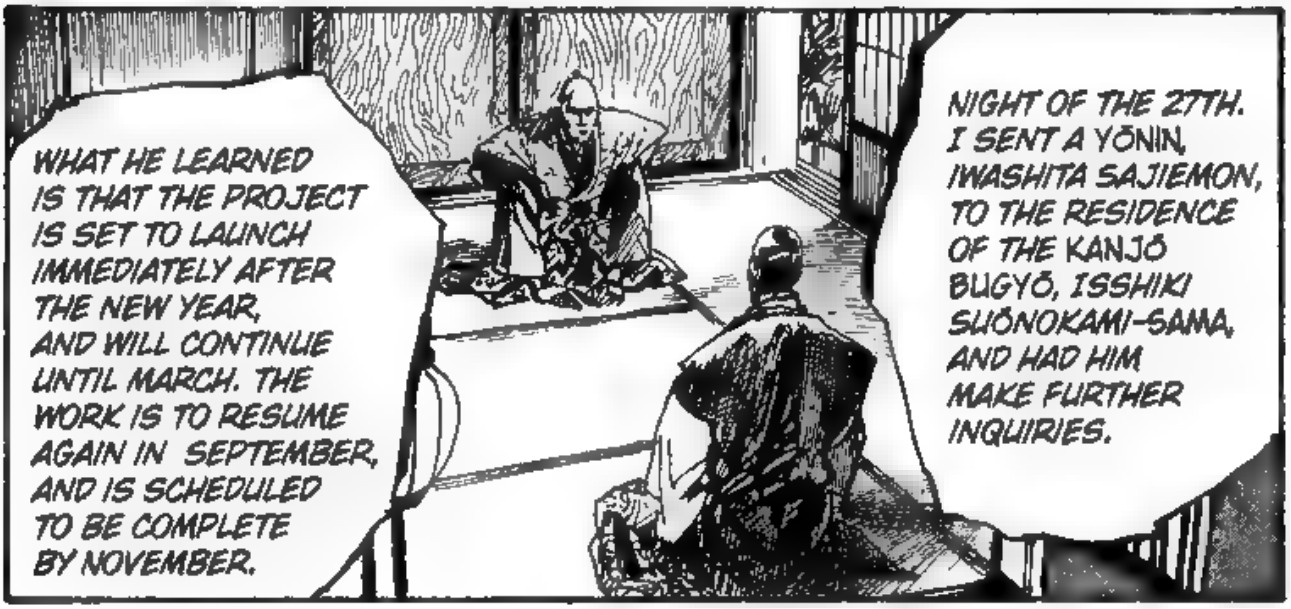

WHAT'S SO IMPOR-TANT?!
PLEASE, SIR!

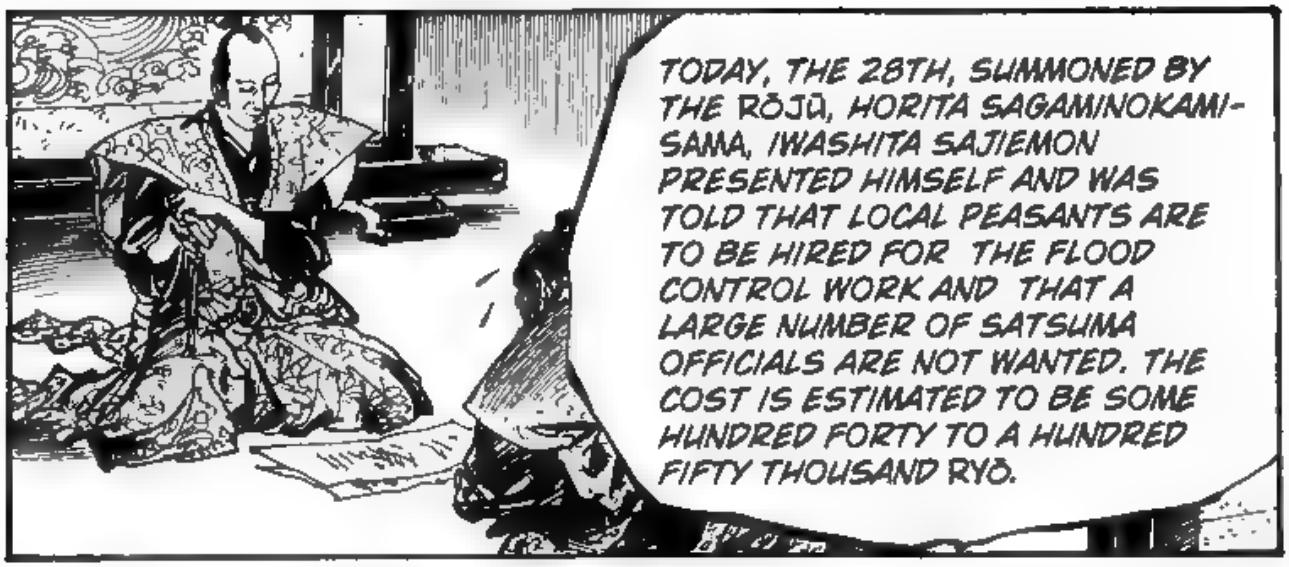
WHAT THE--!


DECEMBER 26TH, THE THIRD YEAR OF HŌREKI (1753 A.D.) SUMMONED BY THE RŌJŪ, NISHIO OKINOKAMI-SAMA, THE RUSUI, YAMAZAWA KOZAEMON...
...IMMEDIATELY MADE HIS APPEARANCE AT EDO CASTLE AND RECEIVED A LETTER DATED THE 25TH DIRECTLY FROM OKINOKAMI-SAMA.

THE LETTER SOLICITS OUR HELP ON FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS FOR THE RIVERS IN THREE PROVINCES: NŌSHŪ, SEISHŪ, AND BISHŪ.


TODAY, THE 27TH, YAMAZAWA KOZAEMON WAS AGAIN SUMMONED TO EDO CASTLE AND ORDERED TO RECEIVE DIRECTIONS FROM THE KANJŌ BUGYŌ, ISSHIKI SUŌNOKAMI-SAMA. FROM WHAT I HEAR, FOUR HATAMOTO ARE ASSIGNED TO OVER-SEE THE PROJECT.
TODAY, THE 26TH, I'VE HURRIEDLY WRITTEN THIS LETTER TO INFORM YOU OF THE MATTER.
FROM EDO KARŌ SHIMAZU SHUDEN SHIMAZU SHUREI


WHAT HE LEARNED IS THAT THE PROJECT IS SET TO LAUNCH IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NEW YEAR, AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL MARCH. THE WORK IS TO RESUME AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER, AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETE BY NOVEMBER.
NIGHT OF THE 27TH. I SENT A YŌNIN, IWASHITA SAJIEMON, TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE KANJŌ BUGYŌ, ISSHIKI SUŌNOKAMI-SAMA, AND HAD HIM MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES.

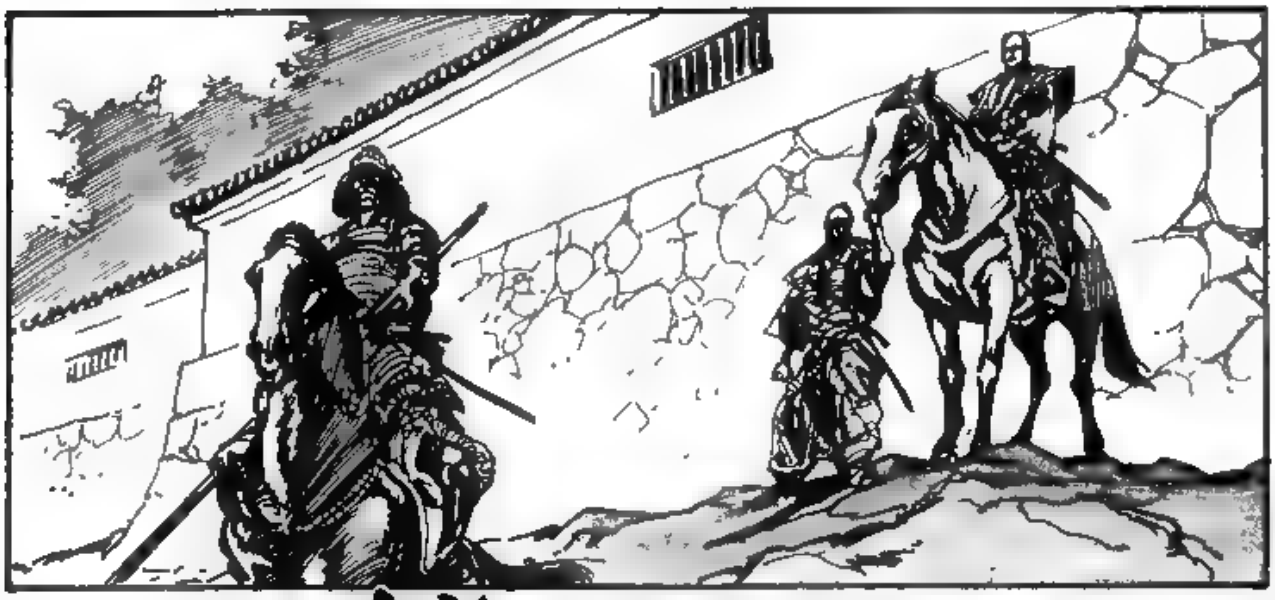

TODAY, THE 28TH, SUMMONED BY THE RŌJŪ, HORITA SAGAMINOKAMI-SAMA, IWASHITA SAJIEMON PRESENTED HIMSELF AND WAS TOLD THAT LOCAL PEASANTS ARE TO BE HIRED FOR THE FLOOD CONTROL WORK AND THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF SATSUMA OFFICIALS ARE NOT WANTED. THE COST IS ESTIMATED TO BE SOME HUNDRED FORTY TO A HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND RYŌ.

FROM EDO KARŌ SHIMAZU SHUDEN SHIMAZU SHUREI TO MY LORD.
TODAY, THE 29TH, I HAVE ENCLOSED VARIOUS PUBLIC NOTICES DETAILING THE ABOVE. I HEREBY AWAIT YOUR ADVICE.

HEAVEN ABOVE...! THIS IS SATSU-MA'S WORST CRISIS!!

重たる者を集めい!
*SUMMON THE ELDERS!
はっ!
*YES, SIR!

CLOP CLOP
STMP STMP STMP
THANK YOU.
HIRATA-SAMA IS AT THE HIEMON-TORI, I THINK.



"SAMURAI ANTS!
UWA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA

WANT TO FIGHT ONE-ON-ONE? PERFECT. I, A SAMURAI ANT, WILL FINISH YOU!!
"YOU LOWLIFE!

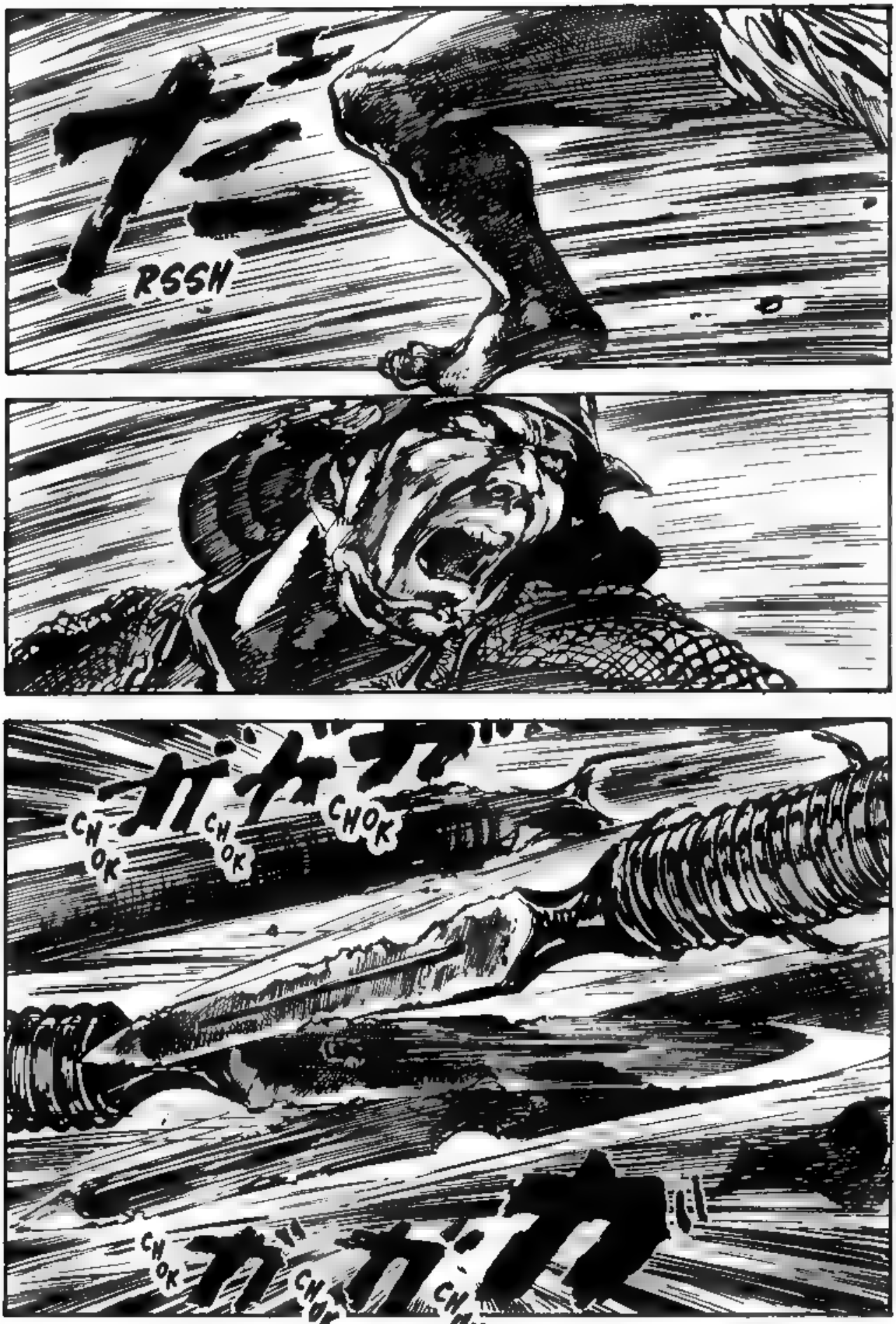
おのれ!
俺が勝ち無罪放免!!
汝は全責任をとって死ね!
その一騎討ちを承知ん!
相手しろ!!
*IF I WIN, I'M SET FREE, AND YOU DIE TAKING THE BLAME! FIGHT ME ONE-ON-ONE UNDER THAT CONDITION!
*OHH!
よかろう!
その口裂いてくれる!!
*FINE! I'LL TEAR YOUR MOUTH APART!
降りろ!!
*GET DOWN!
THAT'S A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY! DON'T PLAY INTO HIS HANDS!
GONDO!
ガヤガヤ!!
MURMUR

ALL OF YOU WEAKLINGS TOGETHER, AND YOU STILL CAN'T KILL HIM!!
*SHUT UP!

*I'LL FINISH HIM!
*GET OUT! GET OUTSIDE, ALL OF YOU!

*IF YOU LOSE, WE'LL HAVE TO SEVER YOUR HEAD!
*DO WHAT YOU LIKE!

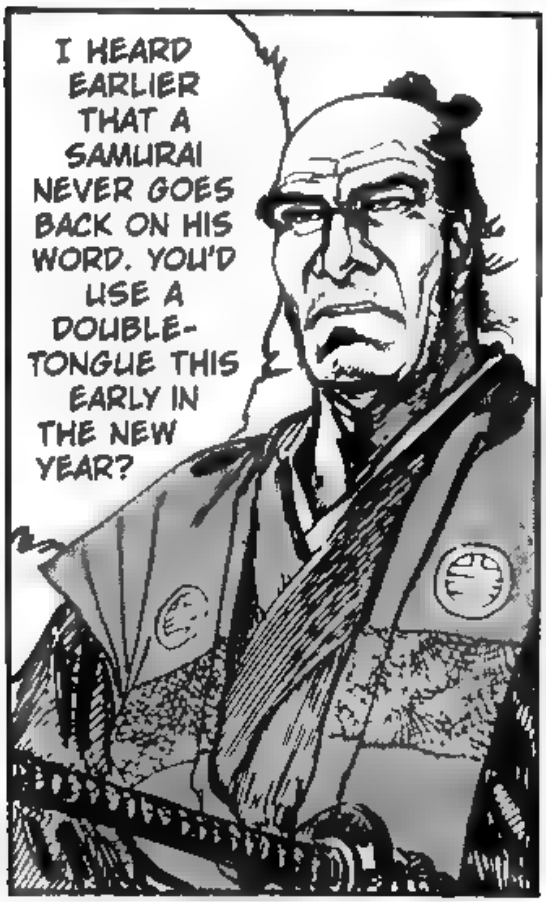
知れたことッ!
*THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING!
武士の言葉に二言はないのッ!
*A SAMURAI NEVER GOES BACK ON HIS WORD, EH?!
ウーハーハー
UWA HA HA
権殿いまそこへ!
*GON-DON, I'M COMING!
ぶーが
*YOU READY?
野郎!
*BASTARD!!
I ASSUME YOU'VE ALL AGREED TO THIS.
*ENOUGH, JUST DIE!
くたばれよ


RSSH
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK

"THANK YOU!
"LOW-LIFE! USE THIS!
THERE'S NO FIGHT WITHOUT A WEAPON.
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK—CHOK
ZA
ZA
ZA

GAKIN
WHAM

*THE FIGHT IS OVER!
*HACK HIM TO DEATH!
*BUT WE CAN'T LET YOU LIVE!
*LOW-LIFE, YOU WON!


I HEARD EARLIER THAT A SAMURAI NEVER GOES BACK ON HIS WORD. YOU'D USE A DOUBLE-TONGUE THIS EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR?

"HOLD IT!

...
...
...

GO-KARŌ!
I EXPECT SATSUMA SAMURAI NOT TO GO BACK ON THEIR WORDS!
MILORD WISHES TO SEE YOU.
ON MY WAY.
WHAT A BAD WAY TO START A YEAR! I HATE THAT BASTARD!
THAT MEANS WE LOST, EH?

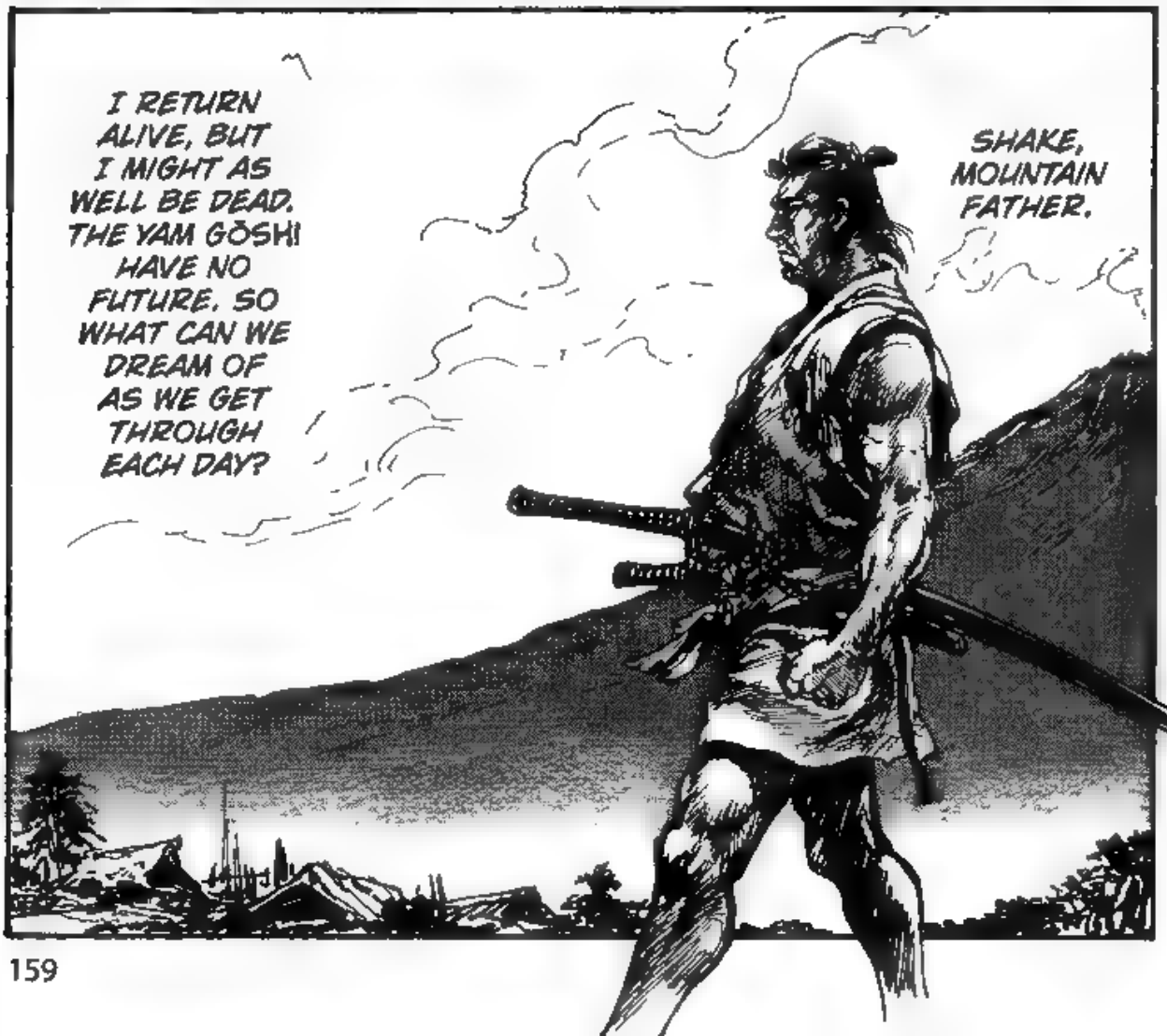
!
GLURK
おのれ…!
*YOU!
権堂の死を嘲いおったな!
*YOU SCOFFED AT GONDŌ'S DEATH!
...TAKE PRIDE IN LIVING.
INSTEAD OF TAKING PRIDE IN DEATH, I'D RATHER...

IF YOU TOUCH HIM, YOU'LL BE CONVICTED OF HAVING A TONGUE THAT GOES TWO WAYS!!
"DON'T! KŌNO!
LET ME RETURN YOUR SWORD. I'M IN YOUR DEBT.
THWACK

IF YOUR HOUSE EVER NEEDS FIXING, LET ME REPAIR IT FOR YOU.
WELL, I'M FREE. I GUESS I'LL GO BACK AND WORK SOME CARPENTER'S JOB AGAIN.
IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING BAD WILL HAPPEN THIS YEAR.
WHAT AN EVIL END FOR A *HIEMONTORI*. I DON'T LIKE IT.

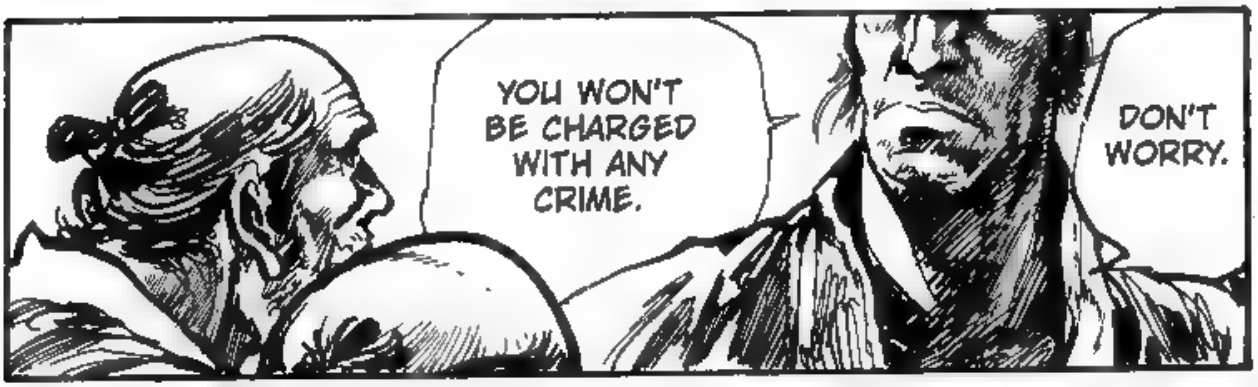
BA
BOOOM

BOOOM


I RETURN ALIVE, BUT I MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD. THE YAM GŌSHI HAVE NO FUTURE. SO WHAT CAN WE DREAM OF AS WE GET THROUGH EACH DAY?
SHAKE, MOUNTAIN FATHER.

I TOOK THE LIVES OF MY FRIENDS... A HEARTLESS MAN... I'M A HEARTLESS MAN.
BESIDES, I...

ARE THINGS SETTLED SO THE CRIME WON'T TOUCH US, THE FAMILIES?
GLAD YOU MADE IT BACK!
SAKON-DON! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!!


YOU WON'T BE CHARGED WITH ANY CRIME.
DON'T WORRY.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CARRY ON NOW...?
BUT IT EATS AT ME THAT I'M THE ONE WHO SENT YOUR KINSMEN TO THEIR DEATHS.

EPISODE IV THE END
◎第三話／完

魔奪戦士伝

100 MANGA

第四話 約束（ヤクソク）

EPISODE 4

PROMISE

なぜに！
*WHY?!
理由を聞かせてくれんかぜ！
*TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
NO, IT WASN'T THE CONVICT WHO KILLED HIM. HE KEPT HIS PROMISE AND TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.
AT THE *HIEMONTORI* TODAY, HE FOUGHT THE LAST FELON ONE-ON-ONE AND LOST.

罪人と約束して自決?!
それは一体どういう事!?
"WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
"HE MADE A PROMISE WITH A CONVICT AND THEN KILLED HIMSELF?!
WE'LL TALK AFTER-WARD.
BRING THE BODY INSIDE FIRST...

まてぃ どこへゆく
"HANG ON. WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
知れた事！ 罪人斬波左近ばとこじゃ！
"IT'S OBVIOUS! TO SHIBA SAKON, THE CONVICT!

LIKE I JUST TOLD YOU...
IT'S NOT RIGHT TO GO AFTER HIM TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER!!
IF YOU KICK UP ANY TROUBLE, YOU'LL END UP TAINTING YOUR FATHER'S DEATH.
...YOUR FATHER MADE THE PROMISE HIMSELF. GO-KARŌ WITNESSED IT, TOO, AND TOLD US NOT TO TALK TWO WAYS...
*DO NOTHING AND SAY NOTHING ABOUT IT?!
*ARE YOU TELLING ME TO STAY QUIET?!

URK!
IT WILL BE A MISFORTUNE FOR YOUR FAMILY IF YOU GET PUNISHED FOR STIRRING UP ANOTHER FIGHT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I SHARE YOUR ANGER. WE FEEL THE SAME WAY.
HE'S A VETERAN, YOU KNOW...
NOW ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME. LET SOME DAYS PASS, AND THEN KILL HIM. A PIECE OF PAPER WILL SETTLE THE MATTER. WE'LL HELP YOU WHEN THE TIME COMES.

YOU'RE WELL-KNOWN FOR YOUR RECKLESS-NESS. MAKE SURE YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH.
LOOKS LIKE YOU UNDER-STAND.
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL GO FOR NOW.

加勢などはご無用でござるぞ…
*I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
きゃつはおいら一人でやっつけるぞっ
*I CAN TAKE DOWN THAT BASTARD MYSELF!

SHOULD WE TALK TO HIM AGAIN...?
NO. HE WON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID.
THE YOUNG MAN HASN'T CHANGED.

FATHER, ARE YOU SAYING THAT A YAM GŌSHI IS NO MORE THAN AN ANIMAL?
A PROMISE IS SOMETHING A MAN MAKES WITH PEOPLE, NOT BEASTS.

NOW, YOU LISTEN. SWEAR YOU'LL NEVER MEET IN SECRET!
ABSOLUTELY. ESPECIALLY IN SATSUMA, WITH THE STRICT CLASS DISTINCTIONS, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING. IT'S ONLY NATURAL.

I MADE A FIRM PLEDGE THAT I'D MARRY HER EVEN IF IT COST ME MY OWN LIFE...
I CAN'T PROMISE I'LL GIVE HER UP.

*WHAT?!

十五郎！
*TŌZABURŌ!
*AFTER WHAT I SAID, YOU WON'T LISTEN?!
これ程言うても聞かないか
I WILL KEEP MY PROMISE.
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU'D LOWER YOUR OWN FAMILY'S STATUS DOWN TO YAM GŌSHI?
NO MATTER HOW WRETCHED, I WILL DO WHAT IT TAKES.
*NO WONDER YOU'RE SHUNNED BY YOUR FELLOW NISE!
WELL SAID...
さすが二オ仲間のつまはじき者や

IF YOU'RE PREPARED TO GO THAT FAR, I HAVE NO CHOICE.

KAN!

生きておくんでよろ
"YOU DON'T NEED TO LIVE.

よく言って聞かせます！
よく言って聞かせますから
どうか手荒なまねは！
どうか！！
*I'LL TALK TO HIM AND MAKE HIM LISTEN! PLEASE DON'T!
*PLEASE DON'T HURT HIM! PLEASE!!
よし
よく言って聞かせろ！
GET THROUGH TO HIM! IF HE DOESN'T CHANGE HIS MIND IN THREE DAYS, BE READY FOR IT!!

*FATHER!
CHIZU-DON WAS MURDERED!!
千津〜どこや〜
*CHIZU-DON!

SH... SHE WAS LURED AWAY AND KILLED!
WHAT A PITY...
MERCI-LESSLY... BY A SWORD!
SOMEONE USED MY NAME!
SHE... HAD THIS! IN HER HAND!
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN BACK OF THE SHRINE -TÔZABURÔ
父上の仕業ではっ!
"...YOUR DOING, FATHER?!
そ、それは
"W... WASN'T IT...
"YOU FOOL!

BESIDES, THREE DAYS HAVE PASSED! ANSWER ME PROPERLY NOW!
WITH NOTHING ELSE TO SAY, WHAT AN ABSURD SUSPICION!

"GODDAMN IT! WHO KILLED CHIZU?!
くそ！誰が千津を！！"

I'LL CHOOSE YOUR BRIDE-- SOMEONE BETTER SUITED TO OUR FAMILY.
MAKE PROMISES THAT SUIT OUR FAMILY, TOO.

I DON'T THINK SO.
DID THAT SUIT OUR FAMILY, FATHER?
YOU MADE A PACT NOT JUST WITH A YAM GOSHI, BUT A CONVICT... AND THREW AWAY YOUR LIFE FOR IT.

どんどの
*EXCUSE ME!

WILL YOU MAKE A COFFIN?
I AM...
FOR WHOM?
A COF-FIN?

...THE SON OF GONDŌ, WHO DIED AT THE HIEMONTORI TODAY.
ARE YOU SHIBA SAKON?!
HAVE IT DONE BY TOMORROW MORNING AND BRING IT OVER!

EPISODE 4 / THE END

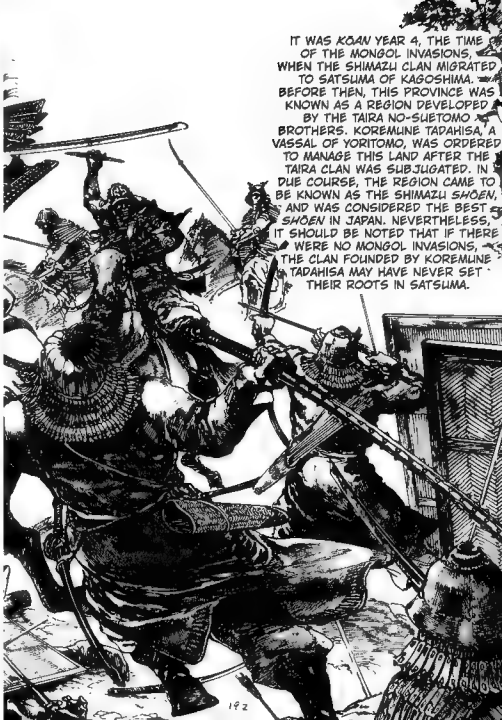
魔奪戦士伝

100 MANGA

第五話 二才教育（にせきょういく）

EPISODE 5
NISE
EDUCATION

SINCE THEN, KOREMUNE TADAHISA CHANGED HIS NAME TO SHIMAZU TADAHISA. AFTER BRINGING THE RIVAL LEADERS OF KYUSHU UNDER CONTROL, THE SHIMAZU CLAN SHAPED THE GREAT SATSUMA. AND IN SATSUMA, THEY CALLED THEIR UNIQUE EDUCATION FOR THEIR YOUNGSTERS "WISE EDUCATION."


IT WAS KOAN YEAR 4, THE TIME OF THE MONGOL INVASIONS, WHEN THE SHIMAZU CLAN MIGRATED TO SATSUMA OF KAGOSHIMA. BEFORE THEN, THIS PROVINCE WAS KNOWN AS A REGION DEVELOPED BY THE TAIRA NO-SUETOMO BROTHERS. KOREMUNE TADAHISA, A VASSAL OF YORITOMO, WAS ORDERED TO MANAGE THIS LAND AFTER THE TAIRA CLAN WAS SUBJUGATED. IN DUE COURSE, THE REGION CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE SHIMAZU SHOEN, AND WAS CONSIDERED THE BEST SHOEN IN JAPAN. NEVERTHELESS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IF THERE WERE NO MONGOL INVASIONS, THE CLAN FOUNDED BY KOREMUNE TADAHISA MAY HAVE NEVER SET THEIR ROOTS IN SATSUMA.

油断なく
常に念じ
ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAMURAI.
ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAMURAI.
ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAMURAI.
"WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAMURAI"
油断なく
常に念じ
"WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAMURAI"

TALKING TOO MUCH WITH COMRADES IS UNCIVIL. KEEP THE MOUTH SHUT AND ADHERE TO THE OLD CUSTOMS!
NEVER LIE. NEVER DECEIVE! OBSERVE THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE SAMURAI CODE WITH DEDICATION!
EVERYTHING THAT RELATES TO THE SAMURAI PRINCIPLES MUST COME FIRST. BEING A LOYAL SUBJECT AND A DUTIFUL SON MAKES THE BEST NISE. NEVER SWERVE FROM THESE AFORECITED PRECEPTS!
UPON MEETING WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW NISE, LEAVE IMMEDIATELY ONCE YOUR BUSINESS IS OVER. NEVER STAY AND LINGER!
IF, BY ANY CHANCE, THESE PRECEPTS ARE NOT OBSERVED, ONE CANNOT CALL ONESELF NISE! YOU WILL BE FORGOTTEN BY MARICI THE WAR GOD AND FORSAKEN BY THE GREAT BODHISATTVA OF HACHIMAN, AND YOUR FORTUNE IN WAR WILL TURN BLACK!

NISE MEANS "GREENHORN," "YOUNGSTER," AND "YOUTH." HOWEVER, IT ALSO MEANS "TRUE VIGOR" AND "YOUNG SAMURAI WITH STRONG SAMURAI PRINCIPLES."
THEY WERE TAUGHT TO FORGE STRONG SAMURAI SPIRITS AND TO BECOME POWERFUL SAMURAI, AND THE NISE EDUCATION OF SATSUMA STRICTLY PROHIBITED THE TEACHING OF ANYTHING ELSE.
FIFTEEN THROUGH TWENTY-FOUR WERE NISE, AND TWENTY-FIVE AND ABOVE WERE OSENSHI. DESPITE THE GROUP DISTINCTIONS, THOUGH, THE WORD NISE WAS GENERALLY USED TO REPRESENT THEM ALL.
THEIR EDUCATION BEGAN AT AGE SIX. THROUGH THE AGE TEN, THEY WERE THE KOCHIGO GROUP. ELEVEN THROUGH FOURTEEN WERE THE OSECHIGO GROUP.
THE THOROUGHNESS OF THEIR EDUCATION MANIFESTED ITSELF IN STRANGE BEHAVIORS.
HMPH, HE'S GETTING PRETTY STIFF.
INDEED, IT WAS THE CUSTOM IN SATSUMA TO HAMMER THE SAMURAI SPIRIT INTO THEIR BOYS FROM THE MOST TENDER YEARS ONWARD.
YEAR 1748 NO 77
CREATED BY NISE CLUB

IN FACT, THEY WEREN'T YIELDING, BUT RATHER, AVOIDING.
THEY CONSIDERED WOMEN TO BE WEAK CREATURES WHO SOUGHT BEAUTY, FALSEHOOD, SYMPATHY, INDULGENCE, AND COMFORT...
...WHICH WAS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF THE SAMURAI SPIRIT THAT THEY PURSUED.
FOR INSTANCE, WHENEVER THEY ENCOUNTERED A WOMAN ON A NARROW STREET, THEY WOULD ALWAYS APPEAR TO YIELD.
IT BECAME THE TREND-- ESPECIALLY AMONG THE *NISE* GROUP IN TRAINING-- TO AVOID WOMEN, THEIR GREATEST ENEMY.
HENCE, THEY DETERMINED THAT WOMEN WERE IMPURE AND DIRTY COMPARED TO THE INTEGRITY OF HEART AND SOUL THEY CHOSE TO FOLLOW SINGLE-MINDEDLY.
THE EXCESSIVELY THOROUGH ONES FELT FILTHY AFTER EVEN A CHANCE MEETING, AND THEY WERE COMPELLED TO GO HOME AND PURIFY THEMSELVES.

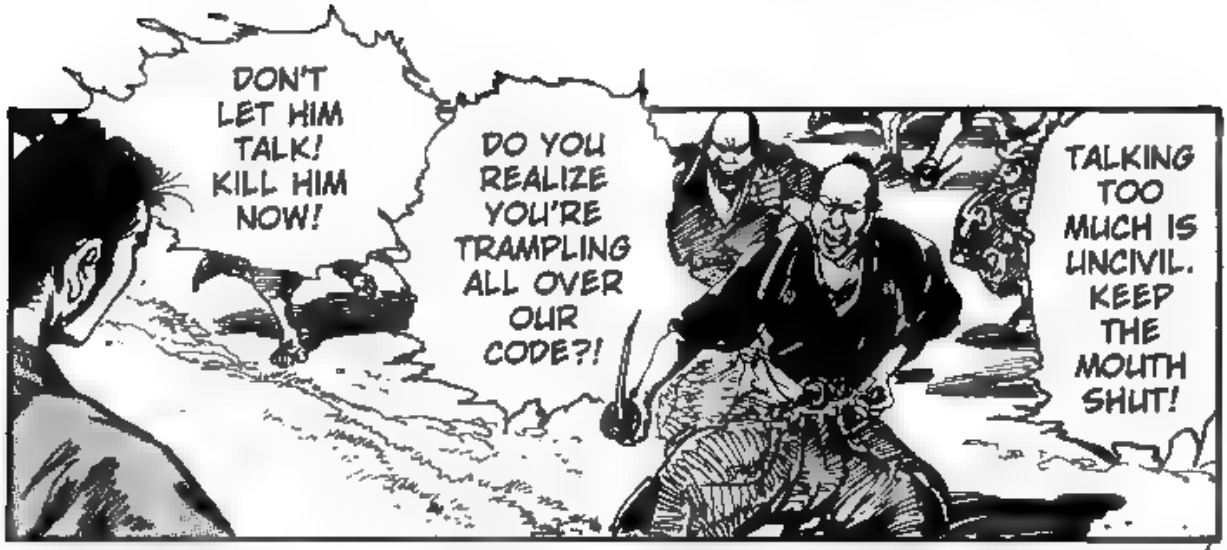
...UPON MEETING A WOMAN.
*CHEEESUTO!!
...IN A WHISPER...
OTHERS WOULD STOP AND SHOUT...
...UNTIL THEY WERE SOME THIRTY STEPS AWAY. THEN THEY'D DUST THEMSELVES TO ENSURE THAT NOTHING HAD RUBBED OFF OF HER.
HAAA

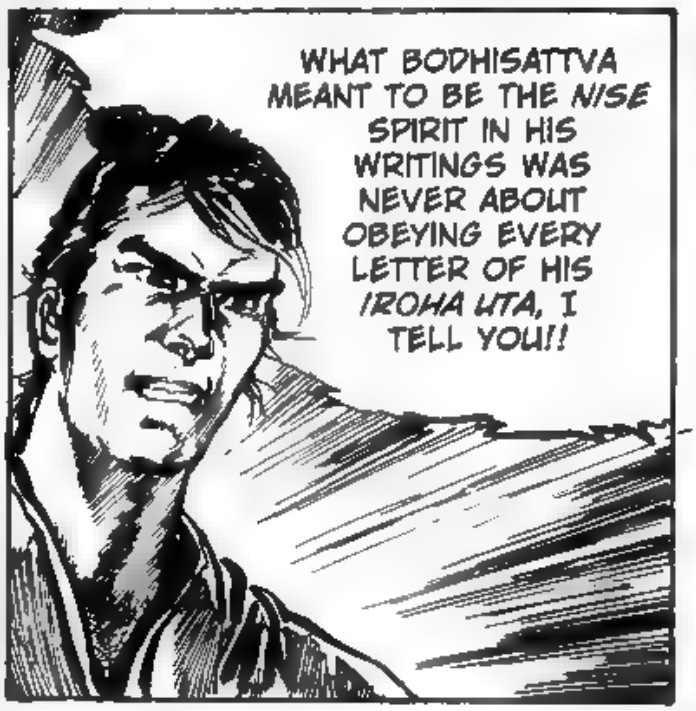
THEY USED SEPARATE WATER, BUCKETS, DRYING RACKS, AND ALL.
SUN
NO WONDER, IN SATSUMA, THEY DID NOT LAUNDER THE CLOTHING OF MEN AND WOMEN TOGETHER.
言語同断の振舞である！
"WHAT UN-SPEAKABLE CONDUCT!
AND WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT GONDŌ TŌZABURŌ WAS DATING A WOMAN, WHEN HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PRACTICING SPEARS...

IT'S A SHAME TO NISE EDUCATION! YOU'VE TAINTED OUR PROUD, LONG-STANDING TRADITION! AS A WARNING TO ALL, YOU SHOULD BE BEHEADED.
*CHOP OFF HIS HEAD NOW!
*YES, INDEED!
*STRIKE HIM DOWN!
*THE IDIOT!
*YOU GEDŌ!

わっ
WHOA!
URK.
HOW... FILTHY!
わ
PUSSY! CUNT!
SLIT! TWAT!
COCK!
SHAFT!
BALLS!
"LISTEN, YOU CRIPPLES!

THE BASICS OF NISE ARE MIS-GUIDED! YOU FOOLS!
WHAT A VILE CUSTOM, TO DEMAND DEATH AND BLOOD OVER A FEW WORDS!
YOU DISDAIN DEBATE LIKE YOU SCORN WOMEN. THAT, TOO, IS SENSELESS, I TELL YOU!
DON'T ARGUE! YOU MANIAC!
WE LET YOU TALK...
...AND WHAT OBSCENITY!
NOOO! NOT AGAIN!
YOUR FRUSTRATED LUST FOR WOMEN MAKES YOU MASTURBATE IN SECRET. WHAT'S AT THE CORE OF THE TRUE NISE SPIRIT?! HOW CAN PEOPLE LIKE YOU KNOW?!


DON'T LET HIM TALK! KILL HIM NOW!
DO YOU REALIZE YOU'RE TRAMPLING ALL OVER OUR CODE?!
TALKING TOO MUCH IS UNCIVIL. KEEP THE MOUTH SHUT!


WHAT BODHISATTVA MEANT TO BE THE NISE SPIRIT IN HIS WRITINGS WAS NEVER ABOUT OBEYING EVERY LETTER OF HIS IROHA UTA, I TELL YOU!!

NISSHIN BODHISATTVA IS THE FATHER OF THE FIFTEENTH SHIMAZU, TAKAHISA, AND ALSO THE RESTORER OF MODERN SHIMAZU. HE WAS WELL-VERSED IN PHILOSOPHY OF ASTROLOGY AND OTHER LAWS OF NATURE, AND WAS LATER REVERED AS THE BODHISATTVA BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE SHIMAZU CLAN FOR GENERATIONS

IN SHORT, THE TRUEST GOAL OF *NISE* IS TO DEFEND SHIMAZU'S PROSPERITY UNTIL THE END OF TIME!
THE TRUE *NISE* SPIRIT IS TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY FROM FOREIGN ENEMIES, BRING PEACE TO REBELLIOUS STATES, RESOLVE TO BE LOYAL SUBJECTS AND DUTIFUL SONS, CREATE HARMONY BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN, LIVE HUMBLY AND DEBATE WHENEVER IT IS CALLED FOR!
ENCOURAGING US TO BECOME GROTESQUELY UNBALANCED, SQUARE, AND STIFFENED SAMURAI...
...WHO AVOID WOMEN LIKE SOME TERRIBLE MONSTERS... THIS IS BEYOND ABSURD!
WHAT'S THE POINT IN PRETENDING IT IS *NISE*!?
THE MERE FACT THAT I'VE SEEN A WOMAN BOILS YOUR BLOOD SO BADLY THAT YOU DEMAND MY DEATH. THIS ***CANNOT BE CALLED*** A TRUE *NISE* EDUCATION.

*FINE!
よかろう!
HMPH
ふふ
LET ME ASK YOU THEN.
*WHAT IS THE PUREST NISE SPIRIT?
真の薩摩隼人魂
IT IS PATRIOTISM. TO LOVE OUR COUNTRY MEANS TO LOVE OUR FAMILY AND LOVE OURSELVES-- NOTHING LESS!
薩摩高津の為に死ぬ事!
*TO DIE FOR SATSUMA SHIMAZU.
IF YOU TELL ME THAT'S NOT TRUE, AND YOU TELL ME TO DIE FOR ANY OTHER REASON, I CAN ONLY TURN MAD AND RAISE MY SWORD AGAINST YOU!

I CANNOT OBEY SUCH WARPED RULES!!
I CAN SEE THE LOGIC IN WHAT YOU SAID, BUT OUR CODE MUST BE ADHERED TO!
I DON'T THINK NOW IS THE TIME FOR ME TO DIE!!
ANYONE WHO CANNOT FOLLOW THE CODE MUST BE EITHER KILLED OR EXPELLED!
"THAT'S NOT ENOUGH! FINISH HIM NOW!
THEN YOU ARE BAN-ISHED! YOU'RE OUT OF THE GOCHŪ SYSTEM!!

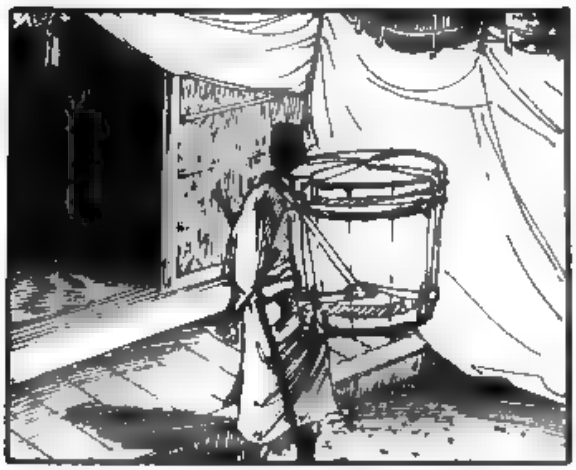
*PLEASE!
*MOVE IT.
IF YOU KILL HIM BEFORE SEEKING AN IMPERIAL DECISION, IT'LL BE CONSIDERED A PERSONAL GRUDGE!
HE'S MOCKING US TEACHERS!
CRAP!

HYUU
HYUU
!
TO BE EXPELLED FROM THE GOCHŪ SYSTEM IS SUICIDE, BUT HE ASKED FOR IT!
HE...HE SPOKE HIS MIND... JUST LIKE THAT.
*BE PREPARED TO SETTLE THIS!
BAKI!

INDEED, TOGETHER, THEY'VE STAINED GONDŌ'S NAME!
THE FATHER CHOOSES AN UGLY DEATH, AND THE SON INCITES HUGE TROUBLE!
HONEST-LY!
DID YOU COME FOR MY FATHER'S WAKE? OR TO LECTURE ME?
なんじゃ
*WHAAAT!!
IT ISN'T JUST THE TEACHERS OF THE NISE GROUP! THERE ARE SOME STRONG VOICES FROM HIGHER POSITIONS THAT DEMAND YOUR DEATH AS AN EXAMPLE!
WHAT THICK SKIN WE MUST HAVE AS YOUR RELATIVES! THIS IS HORRIBLY EMBARRAS-SING!
WHAT NERVE YOU HAVE, TŌZA-BURŌ!

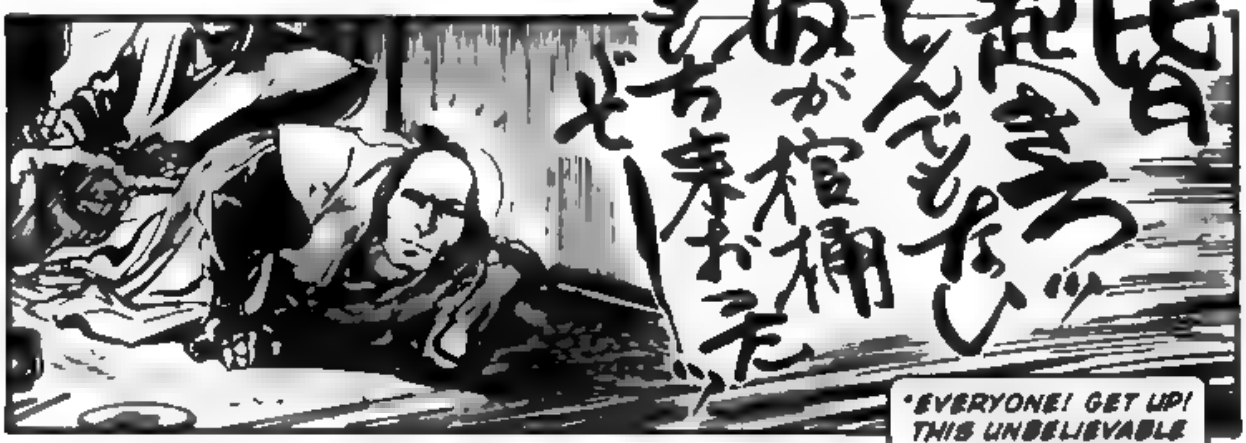
LOOK, WE'RE WORRIED FOR YOUR LIFE!
FORGET IT, YAZARO.
I'VE GOT NO EAR FOR YOUR SERMONS! PLEASE LEAVE.
おのれ十三郎 その言い草は 何んぞ!!
"HEY, TOZABURO! WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!!
TOZABURO IS NOTORIOUS FOR GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN. JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE.
I'VE ALREADY ORDERED A COFFIN.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE SHOULD ORDER A COFFIN AND PREPARE FOR THE FUNERAL.

SENJU! GET THE CEREMONIAL DRAPES READY!
YAZA, GO VISIT THE TEMPLE!
ALL RIGHT. IT'S FINE THEN.
DOES IT MATTER? IT WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW MORNING.
OH, THAT WAS QUICK. WHO DID YOU ASK?
STMP STMP
SAKUZO! WORK ON THE EULOGY!
AND YOU, HAVE THE WOMEN PREPARE THE FOOD!



WHO COULD IT BE SO EARLY ...?

HMM!



"EVERYONE! GET UP! THIS UNBELIEVABLE BASTARD BROUGHT THE COFFIN!

十三郎
おれは棺桶作りか！
気でも狂ったか！
WHY DID YOU HAVE YOUR FATHER'S ENEMY MAKE HIS COFFIN FOR GOD'S SAKE!!
"HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
"TOZABURŌ! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!

I'M NOT BRAIN-SICK-- NOT EVEN A BIT.
IT'S MY FATHER WHO WAS.
*WHAT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
*WHAT?!
HE CUT UP AN INNOCENT GIRL, SHAMEFULLY, JUST TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY NAME. THAT WASN'T A DEED OF A SANE MAN.
*IT'S YOU WHO'S GONE MAD!
*TOZABURŌ! WHAT'RE YOU SAYING!

URRGH!
*HELL WITH IT!

ARE YOU SAYING MY FATHER HAS NO NEED OF A COFFIN?!
YAZARŌ!

*LOWLIFE, GET OUTTA HERE!

*DUMBASS!

YOU'RE STARK RAVING CRAZY!

LET ME SAY THIS ONCE AGAIN.
A COFFIN MADE BY THAT MAN IS WHAT SUITS MY FATHER. NOTHING ELSE!

DON'T YOU GET IT?
I'M SAYING WE'LL USE A COFFIN FROM A PROPER PLACE.

RIGHT.
SENJŪ, PROCURE A COFFIN RIGHT AWAY.
HOW PITIFUL. LET'S NOT DEAL WITH THE MENTALLY ILL. WE'LL HANDLE THIS OURSELVES PROPERLY.
NOT WITHOUT MY LEAVE! I'LL USE THIS BLADE IF I MUST!
*HOLD IT!
UNLESS WE SUBDUE HIM BY FORCE...
HE'S BEYOND REASON...

FSSH
WHOA!

なんてバカド！
*WHAT A PIG!
身内を怪我させるとはきりっ
*YOU HURT YOUR OWN BLOOD!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS IN THE FAMILY!
YOU INCRED-IBLE JACK-ASS!
うぬの好きにまわるがよいわ！！
*DO AS YOU PLEASE!
あいつはどーしてアアなのーか
*HOW DID HE TURN OUT THAT WAY?

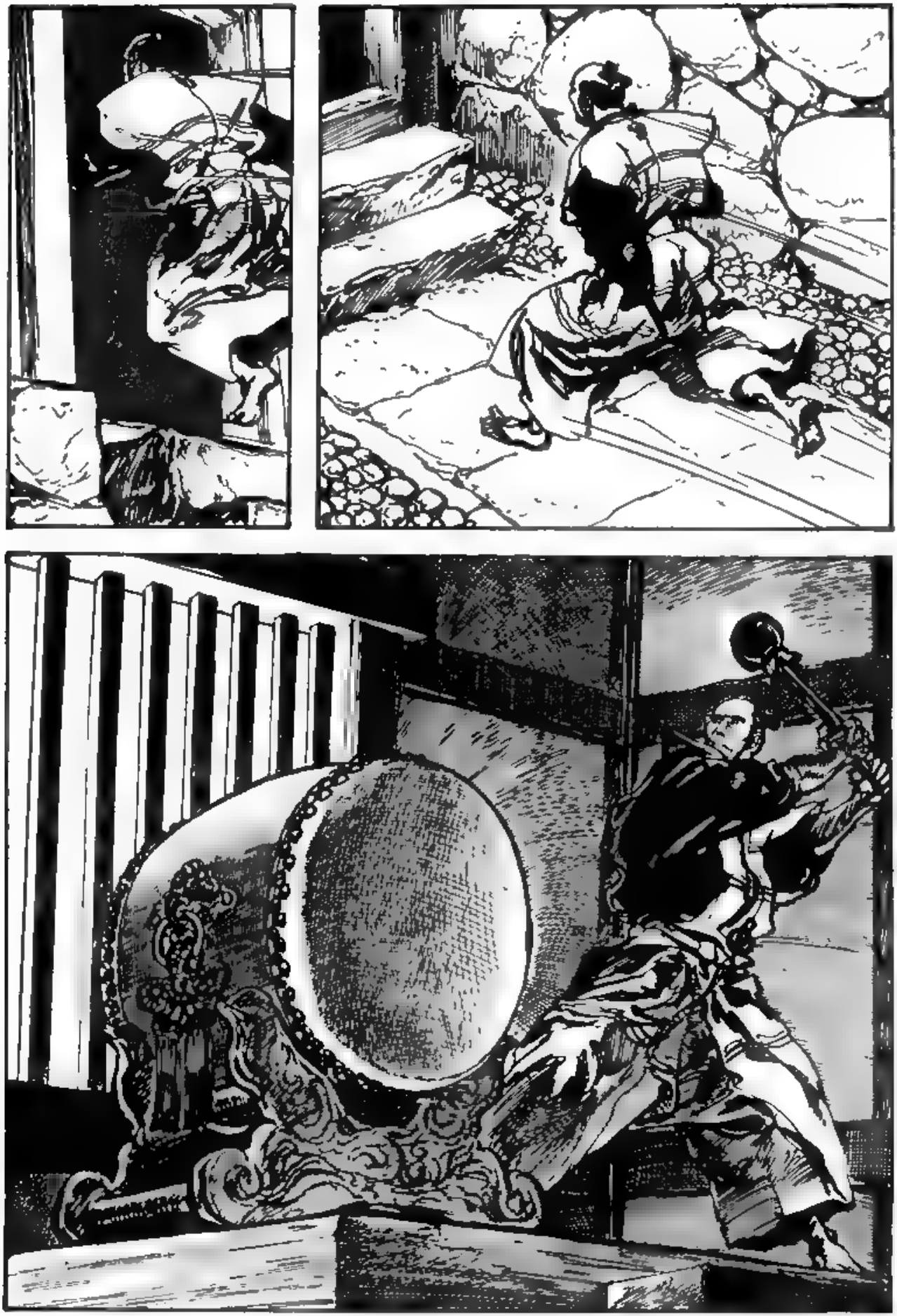
HOW MUCH IS IT FOR THE COFFIN?
PLEASE... ACCEPT IT...
...AS MY GIFT OF CONDO-LENCE.
WHEN I HEARD THAT MY FATHER DIED BECAUSE OF YOU, I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT OF YOUR DEATH.
LET ME BE HONEST.
BUT THE MORE I THINK OF MY FATHER, THE MORE...
...VIVID HIS STUPIDITY BECOMES, CLOUDING MY HEART.
I DON'T HAVE ANY GRUDGE OR EVEN HATRED, BUT PERHAPS IT'S THE INSTINCTIVE BOND OF FATHER AND SON.

RIDICULE ME AS AN IDIOT IF YOU WANT.
AT THIS POINT, I'D RATHER STRIKE MY FATHER THAN YOU.
I MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOU... MY PRIDE AS A SAMURAI WON'T REST QUIET OTHERWISE.
THAT SAID, I WON'T LET IT PASS UNCHALLENGED.
BUT BECAUSE I HAVE A SAMURAI'S PRIDE, I WILL ULTIMATELY TAKE YOU DOWN!
IT'S NOT BECAUSE I'M HIS SON.
I UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY FOR NOW.

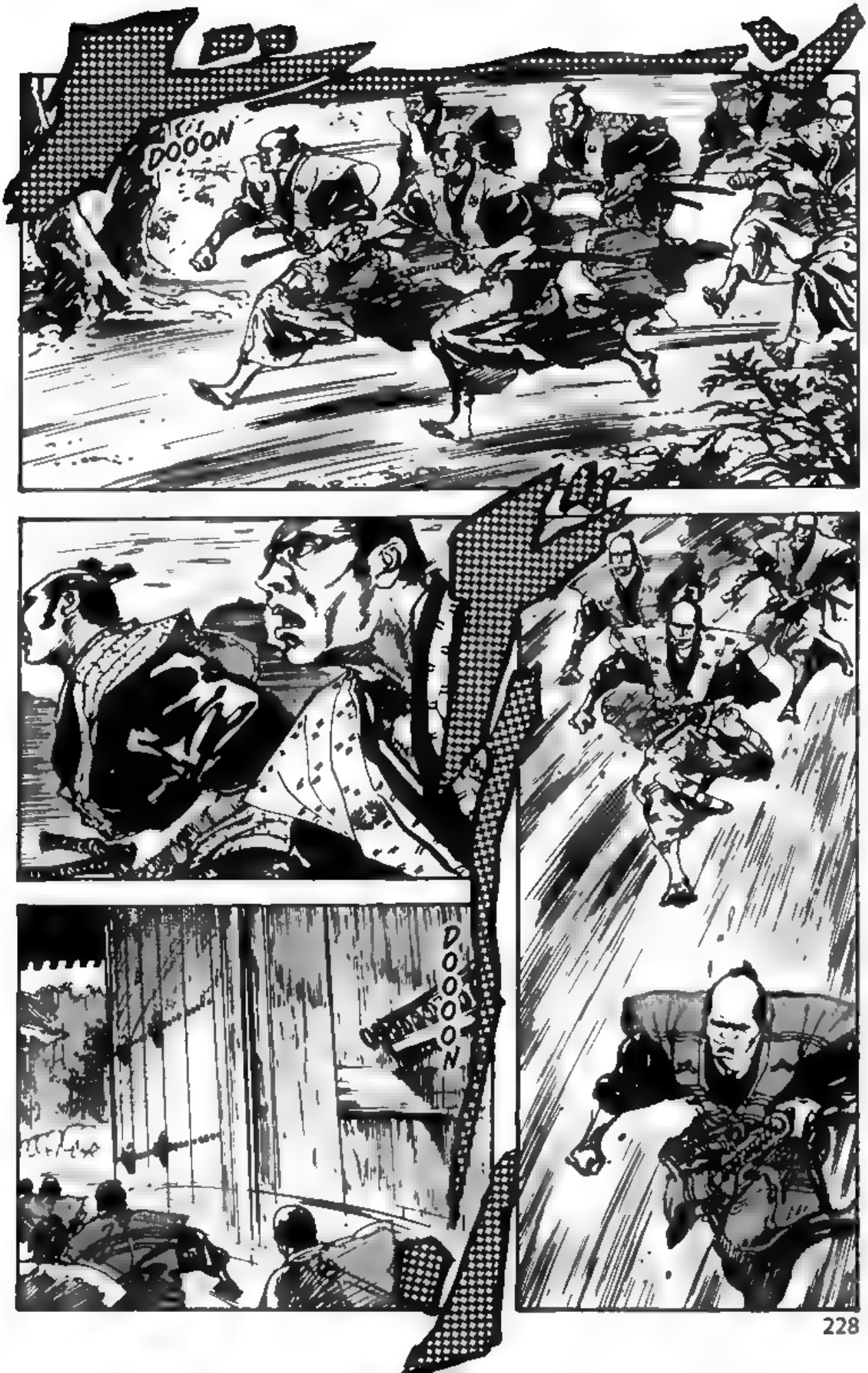
A PIECE OF WOOD WILL DO FOR MY FATHER. YOU'RE AN EYESORE. BE GONE ALREADY!
IT MAY NOT BE CALLED FOR... BUT IF YOU WANT ME TO MAKE ANOTHER COFFIN FOR--
NO NEED!
MOTHER! BRING OUT THE BODY!
YES, EXCUSE ME.

ARE YOU... ARE YOU REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?
WHETHER SERIOUS OR BULL-SHIT...
UHH, HOW TERRIBLE.
...THIS IS PERFECT FOR A RIGID AND FOOLISH FATHER WHO CARED ONLY ABOUT HIS FAMILY NAME!

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO TO THE GRAVE-YARD, MOTHER!



DOOON


DOOON
DOOOON

ON DECEMBER 26TH, AS THE YEAR WAS ABOUT TO CLOSE, KAKUJO HANDED EDO RUSUI AN ORDER FROM THE SHOGUNATE. THE INITIAL NEWS ARRIVED ON THE TENTH OF THIS MONTH, AND FROM AN UPDATE THAT FOLLOWED, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THIS MATTER WILL DECIDE OUR FUTURE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

I ASSEMBLED YOU WITHOUT WAITING UNTIL MORNING BECAUSE OF A CRISIS THAT THREATENS THE SHIMAZU CLAN DOWN TO OUR VERY EXISTENCE.

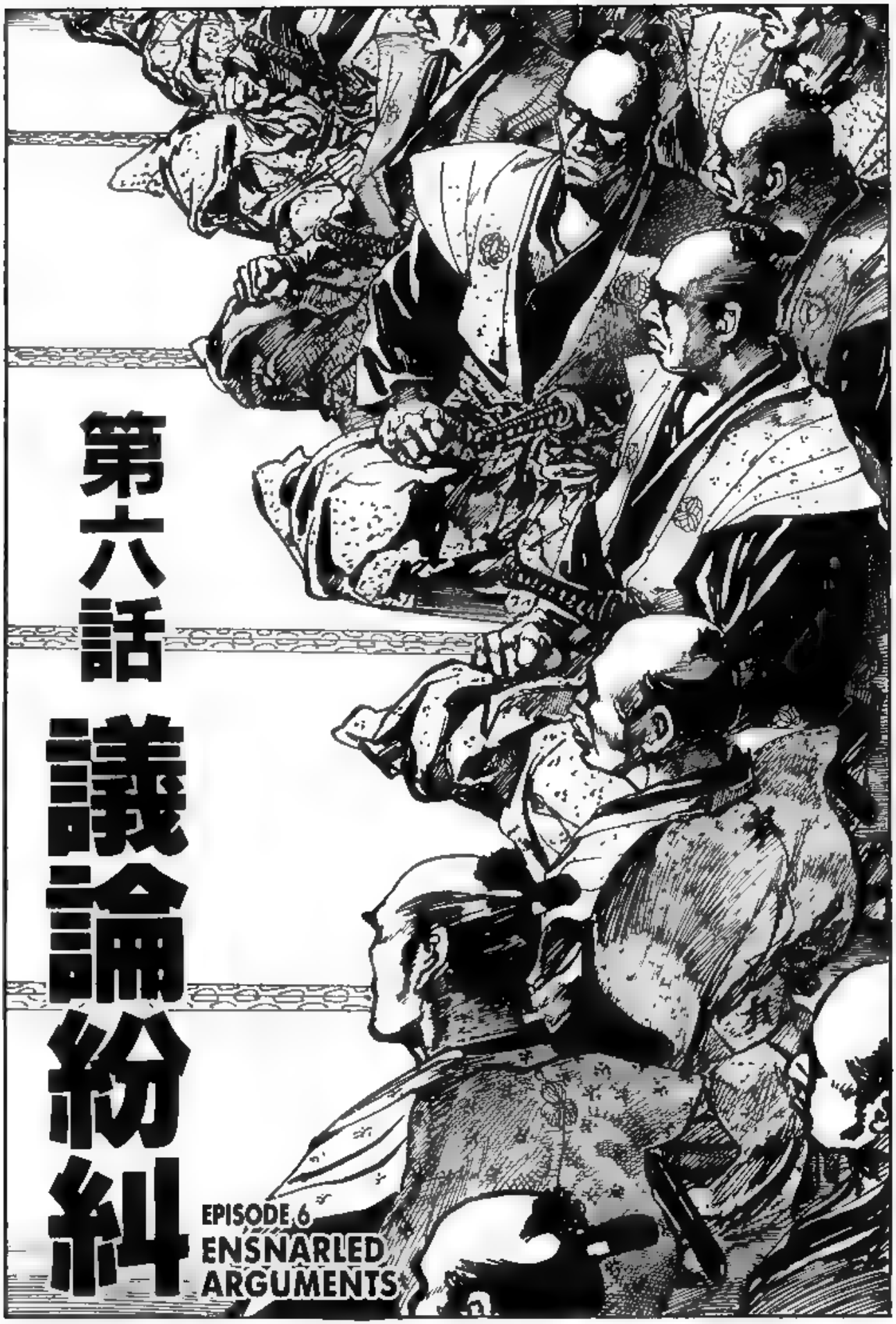
NOW, LET ME READ YOU THAT ORDER FIRST, THEN THE PROGRESS REPORT AND THE PLANS ACCORDING TO THE LETTER FROM KARŌ.
THE ORDER FROM SHOGUNATE, IN SHORT, DEMANDS THAT WE ASSIST IN FLOOD CONTROL WORK FOR THE GREAT RIVERS OF KISO, NAGARA, AND IBI, WHICH STRETCH ACROSS NŌSHŪ, SEISHŪ, AND BISHŪ.
HENCE, LAST NIGHT, AFTER A FEW DAYS' DISCUSSION, MILORD AND HIS FAMILY, TOGETHER WITH US, HIS SIX KOKURŌ, HAVE RESOLVED IN THE FACE OF DEATH TO FULFILL THE ASSIGNMENT.
AS YOU CAN SEE, UNLESS WE LEAVE SATSUMA AND MAKE IT TO ALL THREE SITES BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH, THE TASK WON'T BE COMPLETED IN TIME.

GIVEN THIS THREAT TO THE SHIMAZU CLAN, WE WANT YOUR RESOLVE AND DEDICATION TO SERVE.
THE MOMENT HE UTTERED HIS LAST WORD...
...THE ATMOS-PHERE IN THE GREAT HALL CHANGED.

EPISODE 5 / THE END

魔奪戦士伝

100 MANGA


第六話
議論紛糾
EPISODE 6
ENSNARLED
ARGUMENTS

*THIS DECISION OF YOURS WILL EMASCULATE THE MEN OF SATSUMA!
その御決断は薩摩の人間の骨を抜くまでに腑抜けう申すッ！

*WE HAVE NEVER REJECTED THE DECISIONS OUR LORD HAS MADE BEFORE, BUT THIS IS HARDLY ACCEPTABLE!
*HE'S RIGHT!
その通りッ！

ひかえい!
*RESTRAIN YOURSELVES!
お上の定めをきに入召出来ぬでは家臣とは言えぬ!
*IF YOU CANNOT ACCEPT WHAT YOUR MASTER DECIDES, YOU CANNOT CALL YOURSELVES HIS VASSALS.
おのれ!この事は主君を始め我ら吐血断腸の思いで定めた事である!
*NO DOUBT WE ALL, INCLUDING MILORD, CAME TO THIS DECISION WITH DEEP, WRENCHING ANGUISH!
骨を抜かれようとも魂まで抜かれなければ恐るる事はない!
*EVEN IF THEY HUMILIATE US, THEY CANNOT TAKE AWAY OUR SOULS, AND THEREFORE, THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR!

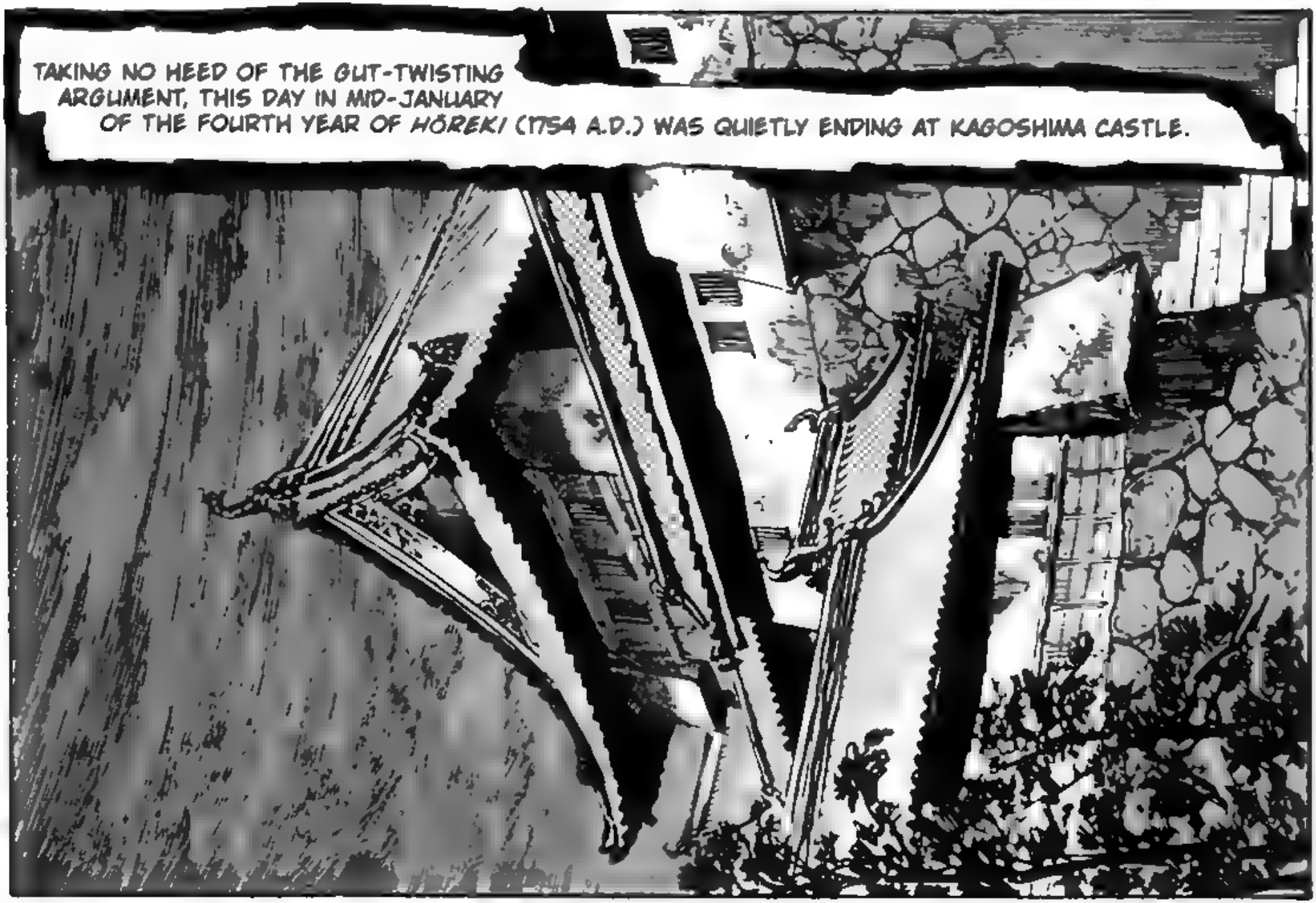
THE ORDER FROM SHOGUNATE ISN'T THE SAME AS THE EXPENSES WE'VE SHED FOR THEM IN THE PAST. IT'S OBVIOUS THEY'RE PLOTTING TO DESTROY THE SHIMAZU OF SATSUMA!
GO-KARŌ! IT SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE RESORTING TO SOPHIS-TRY!
SO WHAT, IJŪIN?
IT'S NO MORE THAN A COWARDLY SCHEME BY THE SHOGUNATE TO WIPE US OUT WITHOUT TRULY FACING US! AND SINCE WE ALL SEE THAT, WE CANNOT NOD OUR HEADS AND FOLLOW YOUR DECI-SION.
TOKUGAWA HAS CONSIDERED SHIMAZU THEIR ENEMY SINCE THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA. YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY DECIDED, BUT THIS ORDER WILL ONLY SERVE AS THEIR RETRIBU-TION! USING THE FLOOD CONTROL WORK AS THEIR EXCUSE, THEY'LL EMPTY OUR TREASURIES!

DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO DISOBEY THE SHOGUNATE'S ORDER?
WITHOUT QUESTION! I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE SEVERITY.
I AM ALSO AWARE THAT THE WELL-BEING OF THE SHIMAZU CLAN COMES BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE!
*NEVERTHELESS!
*IN THE NAME OF THE WAR GOD OF HACHIMAN, IT IS SHAMEFUL TO GIVE UP OUR SAMURAI SPIRIT MERELY FOR THE DESIRE FOR PEACE AND SAFETY!
*HE'S RIGHT!

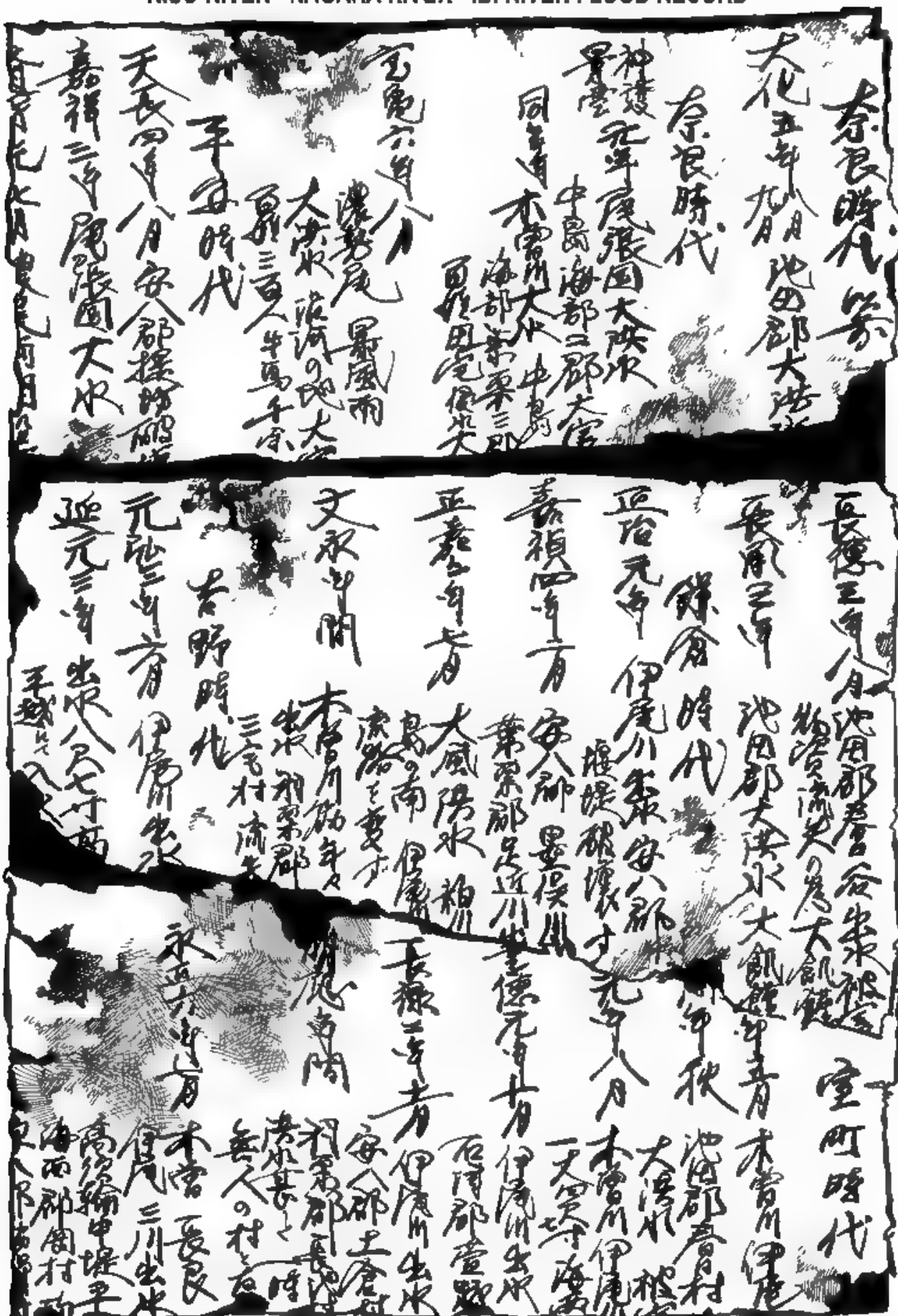
その通り!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE WOULD BE DISHONORED BY NOT CONFRONTING THE BLADES BROUGHT AGAINST US!
ŌMETSUKE-DON IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! THIS TASK HANDED DOWN BY THE SHOGUNATE IS, IN A SENSE, THEIR WAY OF LAUNCHING AN ATTACK IN A HIDDEN FORM!
SATSUMA IS JUST 770,000 KOKU. BUT OUR TRUE SAMURAI SPIRIT WILL BE SATISFIED ONLY BY RISING AGAINST THE TOKUGAWA OF EIGHT MILLION-- NOTHING LESS!
...AS CARPENTERS OR WALL PAINTERS. WE MAY WORK AS LABORERS DAY IN AND DAY OUT, BUT WE DO THAT ONLY BECAUSE OUR LORD IS POOR.
INDEED! EVEN THOUGH WE ARE SAMURAI, SO LONG AS WE'RE INSIDE SATSUMA, WE ARE WILLING TO WORK...
いかにも!

だが国外にまで出て！ なんや岐阜名古屋の為に木ノ下藤吉郎が死んだ才がましでごさるわ！"
AND ON TOP OF THAT, WHY SHOULD WE BE SQUEEZED FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS WHEN SATSUMA'S FINANCES ARE ALREADY MEAGER!
*BUT NOT OUTSIDE OUR OWN LAND! WHY SHOULD WE TAKE ON LABORERS' WORK FOR GIFU AND NAGOYA?! I'D RATHER DIE!
"ごもっともの幕府に対して今さらに弱腰の態度では！
"なんぢゃ無礼者"
*RESTRAIN YOURSELF! SUCH INSOLENCE!
*GO-KARŌ! ISN'T YOUR RESPONSE TO THE SHOGUNATE'S DEMANDS TOO TIMID?!
NO NEED TO HOLD THEM BACK! I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO PAY HEED TO EVERYONE'S OPINION RIGHT NOW.
"どどんのか"
*ISN'T IT?!

NODDING OUR HEADS AND ACCEPTING THE SHOGUNATE'S DEMANDS WON'T ONLY MAKE US WORKMEN, BUT...
...EVENTUALLY, WE'LL ALL BE MADE BEGGARS IN OTHER STATES. IT'S UNSPEAKABLE!
*WE CANNOT SAVE OUR CLAN UNLESS WE LOWER OURSELVES AND BECOME LABORERS IN FOREIGN LANDS.
他国で土木人夫になりさがらねばお家が救えぬとはこの事態
仰せの通り
ABSOLUTELY! OUR SAMURAI SPIRIT CAN ONLY BE SATISFIED BY REFUSING THE SHOGUNATE EVEN IF IT COSTS US OUR LIVES!
*I AGREE!
*ME, TOO!
*IT'S URGENT THAT WE PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
合戦の準備こそ急務と存ずるがいかがか！！

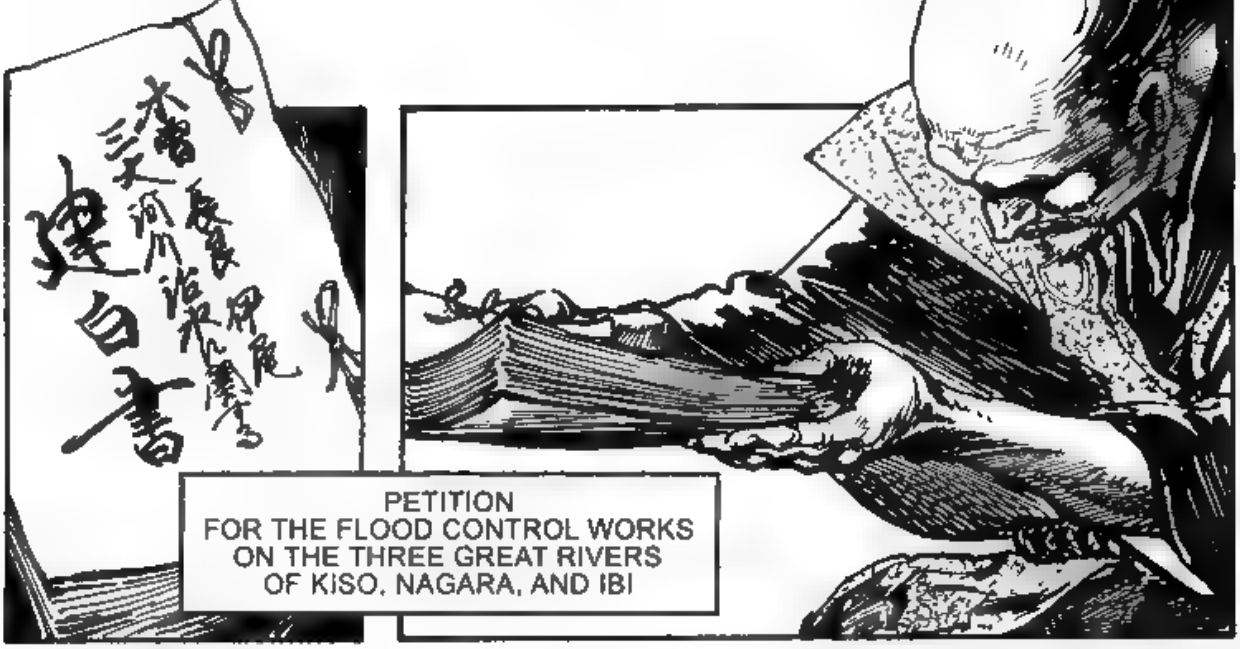

TAKING NO HEED OF THE GUT-TWISTING ARGUMENT, THIS DAY IN MID-JANUARY OF THE FOURTH YEAR OF HŌREKI (1754 A.D.) WAS QUIETLY ENDING AT KAGOSHIMA CASTLE.

DOOM



PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 263 FOR TRANSLATION

*AZUCHI-MOMOYAMA PERIOD
FOURTEENTH YEAR OF TENSHŌ (1586 A.D.)
GREAT FLOOD OF KISO RIVER.
FOURTH YEAR OF BUNROKU (1595 A.D.)
GREAT FLOOD OF KISO RIVER.
FIRST YEAR OF KEICHŌ (1596 A.D.)
PROVINCES OF OWARI AND MINO FLOODED. HOUSES WASHED AWAY.
SAME YEAR, FEBRUARY
DISASTER AT HAYATA-MURA OF ATSUMI-GUN, WHERE THE NAGARA RIVER FLOWS.
SAME YEAR, MARCH
LEVEE BREAKS AT MITSUHOJI-MURA OF HAGURI-GUN WHERE THE KISO RIVER FLOWS.


PETITION
FOR THE FLOOD CONTROL WORKS
ON THE THREE GREAT RIVERS
OF KISO, NAGARA, AND IBI

IT WAS UNDER THE RULE OF THE EIGHTH *SHŌGUN*, YOSHIMUNE, THAT IZAWA YASOBEE ISUI, THE *DAIKAN* OF MINO PROVINCE, SUBMITTED THE KISO RIVER CONTROL DESIGNS.

IT WAS ALSO A TREMENDOUSLY EXPENSIVE UNDERTAKING, AND THAT WAS THE PROBLEM.
ALTERING THE KISO, THE NAGARA, AND THE IBI--THE THREE GREAT RIVERS THAT BROUGHT SUCH TREMENDOUS DAMAGES EVERY YEAR--WAS CERTAINLY A HISTORIC PLAN.

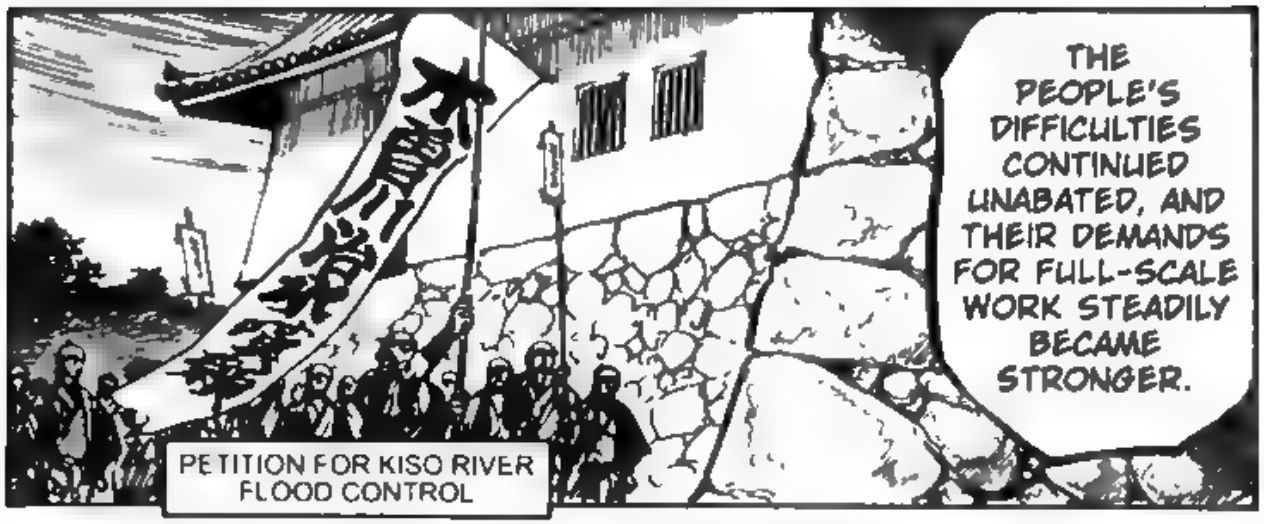
EVERY YEAR, THE *SHŌYA* AND RESIDENTS THREATENED BY THE RIVERS SIGNED AND SUBMITTED PETITIONS TOGETHER, WHICH QUICKLY PILED UP.
YOSHIMUNE, WHO ASPIRED TO GOVERN WELL, COULD NOT HELP BUT FEEL DEEPLY TROUBLED.

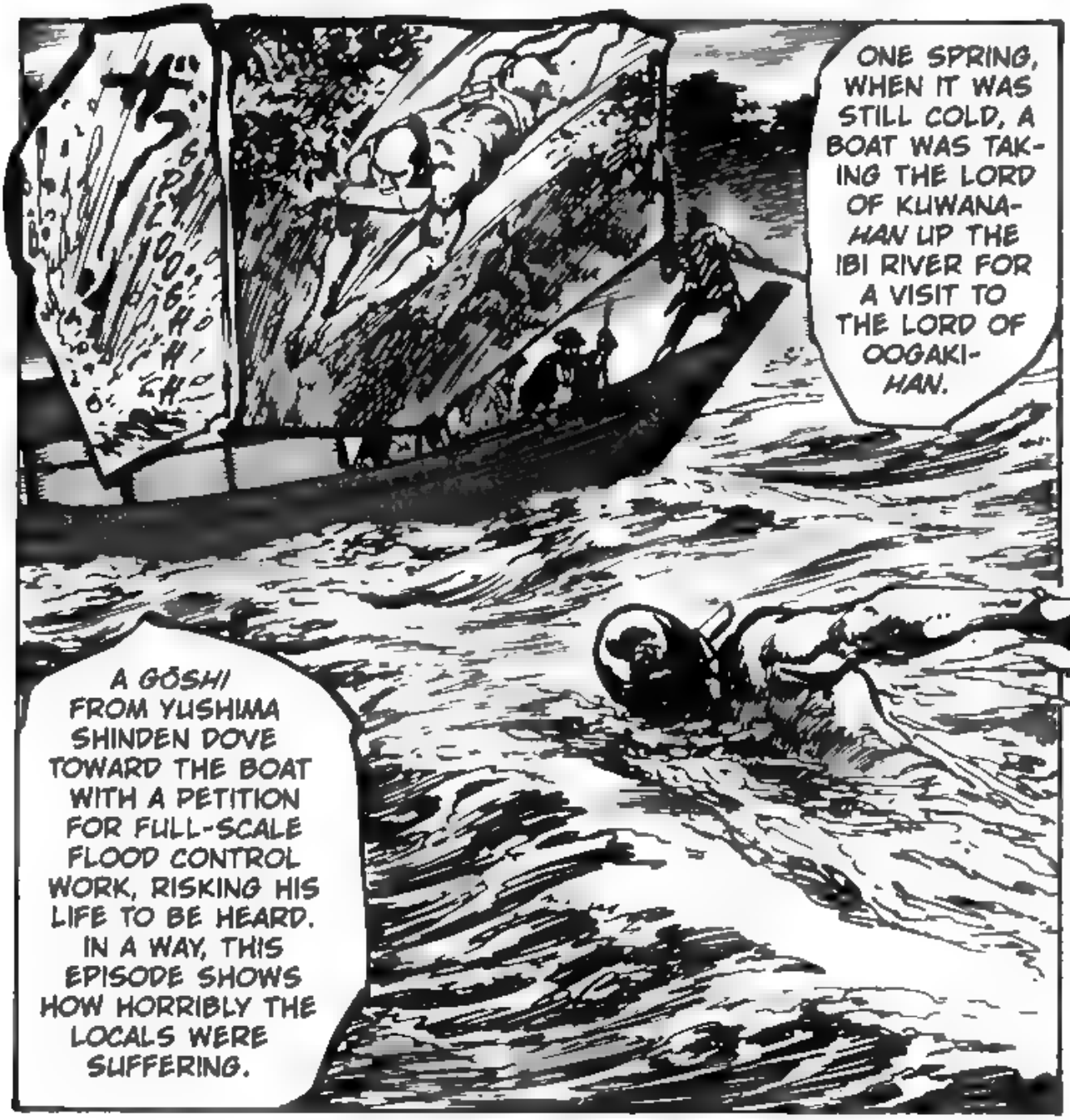
AND SO THE THREE GREAT RIVERS OF KISO RAGED WITHOUT CHECK EVERY YEAR, GOBBLING UP EVERYTHING OF NEARBY VILLAGES AND RAMPAGING ALL THE WAY DOWN TO FAR-AWAY SEA.
FLOOD CONTROL HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT ISSUE SINCE THE TIME OF IEYASU. AFTER ALL, IZAWA ISUI HAD AGED AND DIED BEFORE THEY COULD UNDERTAKE HIS PLAN.

IT WAS THE OWARI-*HAN*, TO WHICH THE PROVINCES OF MINO AND OWARI BELONGED, THAT SUFFERED THE WORST DAMAGE.
WE CANNOT ALLOW DISASTER TO COST US YEAR AFTER YEAR. ***WE CANNOT!***
EITHER WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF *HONKE*, THE *SHŌGUN* HOUSE, OR HAVE THEM TAKE CARE OF IT DIRECTLY!

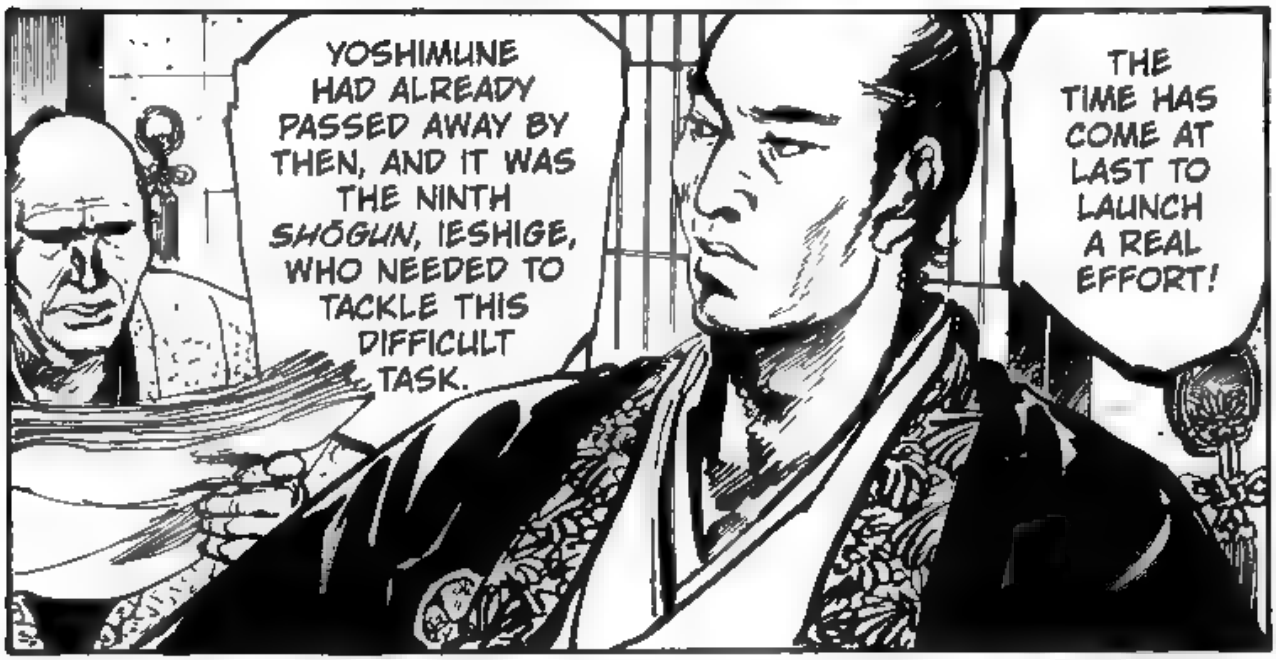
THUS, NO MATTER HOW THE LORD OF OWARI GRUMBLED NOTHING COULD BE DONE.
HOWEVER, EVEN THE *HONKE'S* FINANCES WERE TIGHT. THAT'S WHY YOSHIMUNE DID NOT WEAR SATIN GARMENTS AND EVEN DECREED THAT EVERYONE BE FRUGAL.
YOU CAN COMPLAIN, BUT IT'S A DIFFICULT TIME FOR THE *DAIMYŌ*, TOO! I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT IT'S NOT FEASIBLE RIGHT NOW.
...TO ORDER THEM TO HELP OUT!
IF *HONKE* DOESN'T HAVE THE MONEY, MAKE THE *DAIMYŌ* DO IT. IT'S NOTHING NEW...
WHAT'S NOT FEASIBLE! WHO CARES IF IT'S FEASIBLE OR NOT!
THINK OF *BISHŪ'S* SITUATION JUST A LITTLE, WILL YOU? *YOSHIMUNE-KUN!*
吉宗君!

LET'S START SOMEHOW! IT'S FAR FROM IZAWA ISUI'S PLAN, BUT LET'S BEGIN ANYWAY!
IT WASN'T THAT HE DIDN'T HEAR THE *BISHŪ* CLAN'S SCREAMS, BUT WHAT MOVED HIM MOST WERE THE ENDLESS PETITIONS FROM THE PEOPLE WHO SO DEEPLY SUFFERED.
THE *SHŌGUN* MIGHT HAVE MADE THE DECISION, BUT IT WAS A *DAIMYŌ* WHO WAS CHARGED WITH THE TASK. THAT YEAR OF *ENKYŌ*, THE *DAIMYŌ* OF THE EASTERN LAND, NIWA, THE LORD OF NIHONMATSU CASTLE, WAS ORDERED TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT.
NEVERTHELESS, THE SCOPE OF THEIR WORK WAS SO LIMITED, IT MADE NO DIFFERENCE IN THE FLOODING THEREAFTER.
ALL IT ACCOMPLISHED WAS TO ELEVATE THE REPUTATION OF YOSHIMUNE AS THE *SHŌGUN* UNDER WHOSE RULE THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE MADE THE FIRST ATTEMPT AT DIVERTING THE FLOODS.


PETITION FOR KISO RIVER FLOOD CONTROL
THE PEOPLE'S DIFFICULTIES CONTINUED UNABATED, AND THEIR DEMANDS FOR FULL-SCALE WORK STEADILY BECAME STRONGER.


ONE SPRING, WHEN IT WAS STILL COLD, A BOAT WAS TAKING THE LORD OF KUWANA-*HAN* UP THE IBI RIVER FOR A VISIT TO THE LORD OF OOGAKI-*HAN*.
A *GŌSHI* FROM YUSHIMA SHINDEN DOVE TOWARD THE BOAT WITH A PETITION FOR FULL-SCALE FLOOD CONTROL WORK, RISKING HIS LIFE TO BE HEARD. IN A WAY, THIS EPISODE SHOWS HOW HORRIBLY THE LOCALS WERE SUFFERING.

THE DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY THE GREAT FLOOD IN THE THIRD YEAR OF HŌREKI (1753 A.D.) WAS ESPECIALLY DISASTROUS BOTH IN TERMS OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

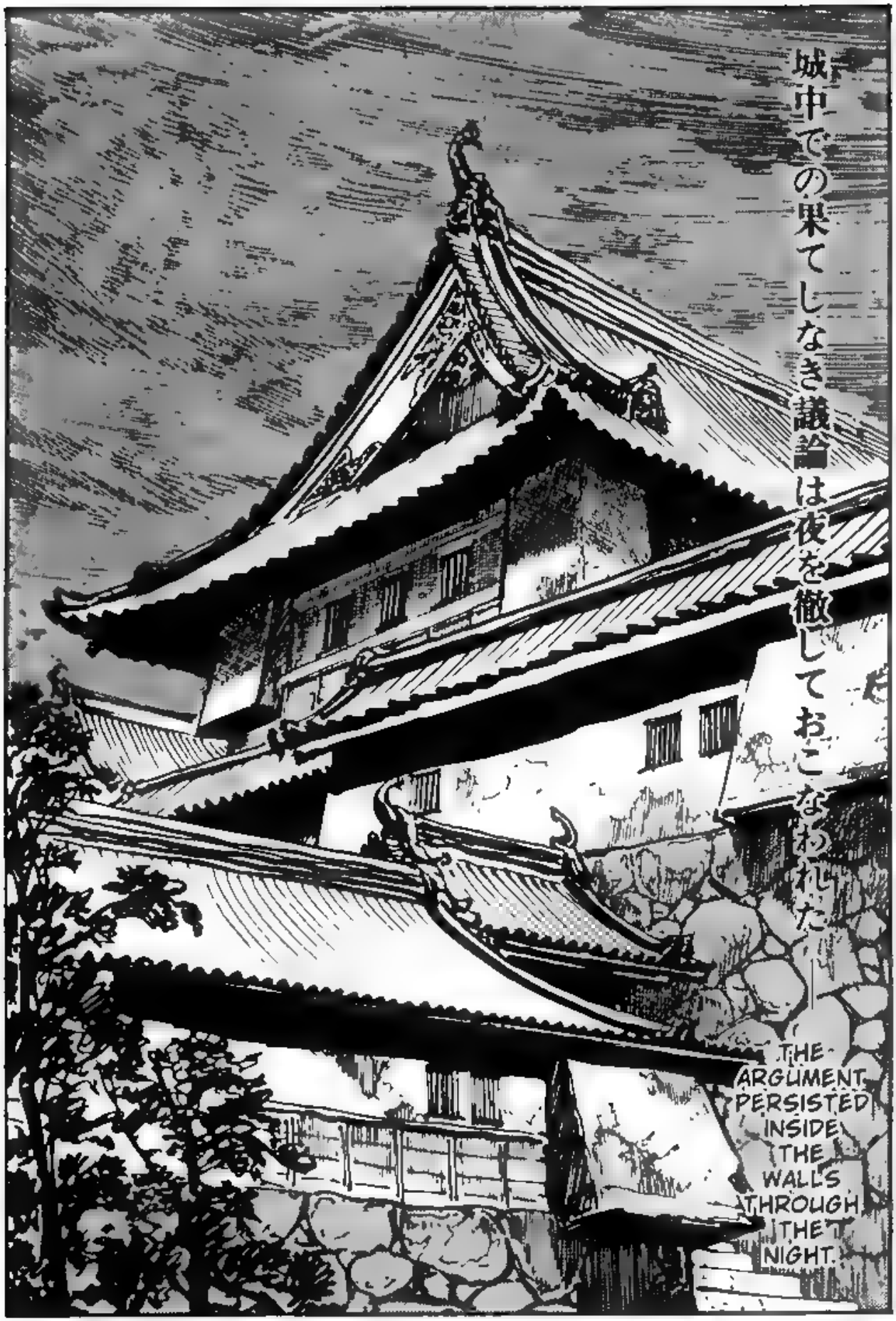

YOSHIMUNE HAD ALREADY PASSED AWAY BY THEN, AND IT WAS THE NINTH SHŌGUN, IESHIGE, WHO NEEDED TO TACKLE THIS DIFFICULT TASK.
THE TIME HAS COME AT LAST TO LAUNCH A REAL EFFORT!

THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF SPECULATION REGARDING THE DECISION TO CHOOSE SHIMAZU SATSUMA.
WHO SHOULD UNDER-TAKE THIS GREAT VENTURE?
NONE-THELESS, AT KAGOSHIMA CASTLE, LONG AFTER NIGHT HAD FALL-EN...
...LIGHTS STILL SHONE BRIGHTLY, AND THE TENSE ARGUMENT CONTINUED WITHOUT END IN SIGHT.

SUDDENLY, A SAMURAI LAID HIS STOMACH BARE AND BEGAN TO PERFORM SEPPUKU.
*H... HOLD IT! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
*LET GO!!
IT'S SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS SINCE OUR FOUNDER, TADAHISA-KŌ, SET FOOT IN SATSUMA.
THROUGH EVERY CHANGE OF FORTUNE, THROUGH EVERY WAR BETWEEN THE STATES, SHIMAZU ALONE WEATHERED THE STORM...
...AND SURVIVED. IT WAS THE STRENGTH OF THE SATSUMA *SAMURAI* SPIRIT THAT MADE OUR LAND AND OUR NAME UNSHAKABLE. ***WASN'T IT?!***

NOW, ON TOP OF IT, WE MUST UNDERTAKE A MASSIVE ENGINEERING PROJECT THAT REQUIRES US TO SPEND ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF MONEY. WE'RE ALREADY HARD-PRESSED. THIS TASK WILL PUSH US EVER DEEPER INTO POVERTY!
BUT NOW! SHIMAZU HAS BECOME AN INVALID WITH ONLY A SHRIVELED REMNANT OF THE SAMURAI SPIRIT, GASPING FOR AIR AND BEGGING JUST TO HANG ON!
*NO. WAIT!
NOBLES, RAISE YOUR ARMS AGAINST TOKUGAWA.
MEANWHILE, I WILL CUT OPEN MY BELLY RIGHT HERE AND NOW, AS A SACRIFICE TO YOUR INDIGNATION!!

ご家老様ー!?
ご決定は翻して
くいやー!!
羽番さんと
篭城して
血い見にや
なりゃせん!!
"IF YOU WON'T, WE WILL HOLD THIS CASTLE AND SEE BLOOD!
"GO-KARŌ-SAMA! PLEASE REVERSE YOUR DECISION!


城中での果てしなき議論は夜を徹しておこなわれた
THE ARGUMENT PERSISTED INSIDE THE WALLS THROUGH THE NIGHT.

GLOSSARY

Bishū
Owari province.

bodhisattva
An enlightened being who, out of compassion, forgoes nirvana in order to save others

"cheeesuto"
A nonsensical word without any particular meaning that Satsuma boys used to shout as they charged forward to carry out their missions.

chōnin
"Townsman." A social class that emerged in Japan during the early years of the Tokugawa period. The *chonin* were oftentimes merchants

daikan
Magistrate.

danna
A title used to address the male master of a house, or a husband. It is also a general title that expresses respect.

-don
A linguistic corruption of *-dono* (honorific).

gedō
"Outside the way/path."

geta
A wooden-soled shoe worn by the Japanese

gōshi
Samurai peasants who were active soldiers only in time of war. Gōshi were considered samurai (not peasants, but lower class samurai), except that they did not actively practice swordsmanship but rather tended the farm or did workmen's/ craftsmen's jobs during times of peace.

Hachiman
The Shinto god of war, and divine protector of Japan and the Japanese people

han
Fiefs of feudal clans of Japan that existed during all the Edo period and for a few years after the Meiji restoration.

hatamoto
An official guard of a shogun in feudal Japan. They were also the armies which functioned by the shogun's direct order

Hayato
A people of ancient Japan, believed to have lived in the south of Kyushu until at least the Nara period. It has been suggested that the Hayato people were closely related to Malay/ Polynesian people

hiemontori
A competition of aspiring swordsmen held in the twelfth month of each year in Satsuma. The prize was the right to practice swordsmanship on a human cadaver.

hishitebeko
An insulting term which *jōkashi* used for *gōshi* who acted like samurai one day and then did laborers' jobs the next

honke
"Main house." *Honke* carries on the main family line.

Hōreki
A Japense era after Kan'en and before Meiwa

jigen-ryu
The combative tradition of the Satsuma. Jigen-ryu is the sophisticated but provokingly aggressive method of combat developed by Togo Bizen no Kami Chuu (1563-1643).

kakurō
Another term used for *rōjū*.

karō
A top-ranking samurai official in service to a

daimyo in feudal Japan.

Kanjō bugyō
Finance minister.

Kojiki
The oldest surviving historical book dealing with the ancient history of Japan. Literally, it means "record of ancient things."

koku
A unit of volume in Japan, equal to ten cubic *shaku*. Approximately 3.6 *koku* equal one cubic meter. The *koku* was originally defined as a quantity of rice, historically defined as enough rice to feed one person for one year

kumigashira
A group leader, the captain of a squad.

Marici
A tutelary deity of the warrior class in Japan, derived from a Buddhist deity.

Nada
The Nada district of Kobe in Hyogo prefecture has been generally perceived as the most significant sake-brewing region of Japan.

Nōshū
Mino province.

ōmetsuke
Inspector general.

rōjū
One of the highest-ranking government posts in Tokugawa Japan. The term refers either to individual elders, or to the council as a whole.

rusui
Also known as Edo representatives, *rusui* were *daimyos'* diplomatic officials.

ryō
An old monetary unit before "yen" was introduced.

-saa
Linguistic corruption of *sama* (honorific).

sake
Japanese rice wine.

sanpin
The least-paid class of samurai.

Seishū
Ise province.

seppuku
Ritual suicide by disembowelment formerly practiced by Japanese samurai. Also called hara-kiri.

Shinto
A religion native to Japan, characterized by veneration of nature spirits and ancestors and by a lack of formal dogma.

shōen
A fief or manor in Japan.

shōya
A village headman or a squire.

Tadahisa, Koremune
Later known as Shimazu Tadahisa, the founder of the Shimazu clan.

tatami
A traditional Japanese flooring. Made of woven straw, and traditionally packed with straw (though nowadays sometimes with styrofoam), tatami are made in individual mats of uniform size and shape, bordered by brocade or plain black cloth.

yōnin
An important post, whose duties included the charge of accounts and managing general business.

Heian period

Fourth year of Tenchō (827 A.D.) August

Levee of Anpathi-gun destroyed

Third year of Kajō (850 A.D.) Flood disaster in Owari province

Sixth year of Hōki (773 A.D.) August

Rainstorm in Nō-Sei-Bi

Great flood. Disaster near the rivers, 300 peasants and over a thousand cows and horses lost.

Nara period

First year of Jingo-Keiun (737 A.D.)

Great flood in the province of Owari

Disasters in both Nakajima and Kaifu districts.

Same year Kiso River overflows. Peasants' lands and homes submerged in Nakajima, Kaifu and Kurihara districts.

Before the Nara period

Fifth year of Taika (649 A.D.) August & September

Great flood in Ikeda-gun.

During Bunei (1264 – 1275 A.D.) Kiso river overflows year after year. Haguri-gun Miyake-mura washes away

Yoshino period Third year of Genkō (1333 A.D.) Over eight feet of water Hirakoshi

Fourth year of Katei (1238 A.D.), February

Anpachi-gun, Nagara river Haguri-gun, Ajika river

Second year of Shōka (1258 A.D.), July

Great storm and flood. Kasu river south of the island. Ibi river. No changes to channel

Third year of Chōtoku (997 A.D.), August

Ikeda-gun, Kasugaya suffers flood, and great famine due to everything being washed away.

Third year of Chōshō (1134 A.D.) Great flood in Ikeda-gun. Great famine.

Kamakura period

First year of Shōji (1199 A.D.)

Ibi river overflows at [illegible]i-gun, [illegible]ng levee.

[illegible]ō [illegible] (58 A.D.) Extensive flooding [illegible] [illegible] temporarily.

Sixth year of Eishō (1509 A.D.), July Three rivers of Kiso Nagara and Ibi overflow...

.....

First year of Kyōtoku (1452 A.D.) October Ibi river overflows Ishizu-gun

Second year of Chōroku (1458 A.D.) November Ibi river overflows Anpachi-gun, Tsuchikura-mura

Muromachi period May, Kiso river, Ibi Autumn Ikeda-gun, Kasuga-mura Great flood disaster

August, Kiso river, Ibi Over a foot

TRANSLATED TEXT FROM PAGE 246

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